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What the butler saw

G2 with Europe's wealth

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Tory MP turns on Willetts over his role in Hamilton cash for questions affair

Minister accused of lying

Row over crucial memo

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

DAVID Willetts, the minister at the centre of a Commons inquiry into the handling of the "cash for questions" scandal, was accused last night by a fellow Tory of having lied either to his own whips or to the committee investigating a leaked memo into the affair.



David Willetts being questioned by the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee. He denied he had tried to manipulate a previous inquiry

There are no two ways about it, said Mr Davies, during a heated exchange at the climax of a specially convened meeting of the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee. "Which of these two should we believe? Both of them cannot be true."

Geoffrey could either claim to have misled his colleagues at the time he wrote the memo - October 20, 1994 - the day the Guardian published allegations that two government ministers had taken money to ask questions from Mohammed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, when they were backbenchers.

Mr Davies said there were at least three essential aspects of Mr Willetts' stories which would not simply be reconciled. One concerned the phrase in the original

memo which suggested that Sir Geoffrey would try to "exploit the good Tory majority" on the Members' Interests Committee. The second was the phrase "he wants our advice" which suggested that Sir Geoffrey was seeking guidance from the whips. The third was that he had not sought to influence the inquiry into Hamilton.

Sir Geoffrey admitted that on the day he had probably talked to Neil Hamilton about him bringing a libel case against the paper. "I thought it was better for the case to be heard in the courts rather than in a parliamentary committee," he said.

He expressed complete surprise and disapproval when Mr Campbell-Savours told him he had proof that Mr Mitchell had been involved in discussions about his proceedings in the committee with the chief whip.

The Willetts memo

Geoffrey Johnson Smith said No 10 had got in a muddle about Committee on Members' Interests. They claimed it had cleared Neil Hamilton but actually this was only on a complaint about remarks of his, not on the new allegations. He is expecting to receive a formal complaint about Hamilton receiving money etc. He could:

- (i) argue now sub judice and get committee to set it aside, or
(ii) investigate it as quickly as possible, exploiting good Tory majority at present.

We were inclined to go for (i) but he wants our advice.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith

'I neither sought advice nor did I expect anyone to give me any advice.'

David Willetts

'As for the words, "He wants our advice," he didn't seek my advice, I didn't offer any advice and I don't believe Sir Geoffrey expected to receive any advice. They mean "He is in want of advice. He needed advice".'

Quentin Davies

'Either you were deceiving your colleagues in the initial memorandum or you are trying to deceive the committee now in your subsequent memorandum. Which of these two should we believe? Both of them cannot be true.'

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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Major defiant on 48-hour week

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR last night raised the stakes in his running battle over the 48-hour working week when he warned his European partners that the Cabinet will not back down on the issue - because it shows how Britain is getting economic policy right and they have got it wrong.



John Major and a woman, possibly a European leader, in a discussion.

reforms had put Britain "back in the first rank". It was now poised to become "one of the leading global trading nations of the 21st century", said Mr Major in terms that drew scornful charges of "blatant electioneering" from Labour and the Liberal Democrats and an equally stubborn response from Brussels.

Though Mr Major believes he can outpace them - "this is not like BSE," said Tory loyalists - the Franco-German alliance remains determined not to let one of the 15 member states block progress on reforming its institutions at next June's summit in Amsterdam.

Curiosity killed the eavesdropper but only for a couple of hours

David Berezford in Johannesburg and Kamal Ahmed

TO PARAPHRASE Monty Python, Talay George Sogwe was not dead but simply listening. Worried about what people would say about him at his funeral, he decided to stage his own death to hear exactly what they thought.

recounted the story of his life and sang his praises as Mr Sogwe, aged 65, listened from the comfort of the coffin. After more than two hours of sad words and eulogies to his hard work, Mr Sogwe, a health worker, rose from his coffin to pronounce himself happy that his friends had passed his test.

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The Willetts inquiry



**David Lindsay Willetts**  
Age: 40.  
Educated: King Edward School Birmingham, Christ Church, Oxford. First-class honours PPE.  
Career: Entered Treasury at 22, becoming a principal in monetary division at 26. Moved to Downing Street Policy Unit at 28.  
Political career: Director of Centre for Policy Studies 1987-92. Elected 1992 for Havant.  
Parliamentary private secretary to Sir Norman Fowler, party chairman, 1993-94. Assistant whip 1994-96. Paymaster General since July.

'As Sir Geoffrey made clear, I did not think that he was saying anything to me that he would not have said to any other colleague. I did not seek him out. He did not seek me out. We bumped into each other. Everyone was talking about the Hamilton case'



**Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith**  
Age: 72.  
Educated: Charterhouse, Lincoln College, Oxford.  
Career: Information Officer, British Consul General, San Francisco. TV interviewer 1954-58.  
Political career: MP, except for one year, since 1959.  
Parliamentary under-secretary to armed forces and civil service in Heath government, early 1970s. Chairman of House of Commons Members' Interests Committee, 1980-95. Knighted 1982. Vice-chairman of 1922 Committee.

'I did not assume he was a whip. I had no impression he was speaking to me as a whip. I am pretty sure we had a conversation. I could go no further than that. I did not recall having a conversation knowing that he was addressing me as a whip'

# Tory grandee disowns whip's memo

## House was in ferment over Hamilton, MPs told

Owen Bowcott and Alan Travis

THE ISSUE of the memorandum written by David Willetts had been referred to the Commons standards and privileges committee by the House on October 16, the chairman, Tony Newton, explained. The question was whether there had been improper pressure brought to bear by the Government on the former Committee of Members' Interests in 1994, when Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith was chairing it. Mr Newton began by asking about the circumstances of the conversation between Sir Geoffrey and Mr Willetts. "How did it come about and what was said in the course of it?" he asked. After more than two years, Sir Geoffrey replied, his recollection was not as clear as it might be. It had been a busy day. "I did have a number of conversations with various people who were concerned about the seriousness of the allegations." The fact that legal action had been initiated by Neil Hamilton presented his committee with a problem. But he had not contacted the Government about such difficulties. "It has never been my custom to seek advice on a matter concerning my chairmanship of that committee. I neither sought advice nor did I expect anyone to give me any advice." Any such action would have been improper. The Labour MP Ann Taylor asked Sir Geoffrey if he had

had discussions with any other government whips about the Hamilton affair. "No. Certainly not," Sir Geoffrey replied. Asked how he knew that Mr Hamilton was going to issue a writ on that day (October 20, 1994), before it had formally been announced, Sir Geoffrey said: "The issue of the writ was in the air." The committee had previously proceeded with inquiries against other MPs, such as John Browne, where part of the hearing was in private in order not to prejudice other actions, Mrs Taylor said. Could not a similar course have been taken with Mr Hamilton? In Mr Browne's case, Sir Geoffrey said, there had never been a writ issued. It was different from Mr Hamilton's in that respect. On the conversation with Mr Willetts, he said he could not recall the circumstances with any degree of accuracy. "I don't think I started any conversation. He may have heard me talking to someone else. I think it's unlikely I would have walked up to anyone and started a conversation. It may have been Mr Willetts' curiosity." Mrs Taylor asked if it was correct that he had described Mr Hamilton as "getting itself into a muddle" on the issue. "Yes, that could be the case," he replied. Asked about the wording of the Willetts memorandum, Sir Geoffrey denied it was a reflection of what he had said. He would never have referred to "exploiting a Tory majority". Such a phrase would not "exist in my vocabulary".

Mr Willetts should be asked why he had worded the memorandum in the way he did. "He may have thought I was in need of advice but I certainly didn't need it." Iain Duncan-Smith asked if the memorandum was accurate. Sir Geoffrey said it was inaccurate, but then added: "It's not inaccurate in the sense that it's perfectly true that we had the opportunity to go ahead or disregard the writ." Mr Willetts had made the point correctly. The memorandum accurately reflected the division in his own mind about how the committee should proceed. There were dangers in going ahead straight away because the whole matter could shortly become *sub judice*. Mr Duncan-Smith asked whom the "we" in the memorandum referred to. Sir Geoffrey said he did not know. Mr Willetts should be asked. Later Sir Geoffrey suggested that when his conversation with Mr Willetts about the Hamilton case took place he had not even been aware that the MP was also a government whip and would report the discussion. "I did not assume he was a whip. I had no impression he was speaking to me as a whip. I did not recall my having a conversation knowing that he was addressing me as a whip," he said. When MPs last night expressed surprise at Sir Geoffrey's suggestion, as he was an officer of the Tory backbench 1922 executive committee and a former whip, he was adamant that it was possible he would not have realised. Sir Geoffrey later admitted "it might have been better" if another government whip, Andrew Mitchell, the Tory MP for Gilling, had not been appointed to the privileges committee. He agreed with Labour's Dale Campbell-Savours that he would be "surprised" to learn that Mr Mitchell had been in contact with the Chief Whip during the critical period within days of Mr Willetts' memo being transmitted to the whips' office. "Yes, that would have been a breach of the undertaking I had," said Sir Geoffrey. Before finishing his evidence Sir Geoffrey launched a fierce attack on the Guard-

ian. An editorial in yesterday's paper was, he said, "outrageous" in suggesting that he had not followed constitutional history. The case against Mr Hamilton had been a civil, not a criminal, matter. To have gone ahead with an inquiry would have made it difficult for both the Guardian and Mr Hamilton to have received justice. In his opening remarks Mr Willetts agreed that it would have been wrong to influence Sir Geoffrey. "I didn't seek to influence him or put pressure on the committee," he insisted. In that case, Mr Newton said, was not his note of the conversation inaccurate? Mr Willetts replied: "The underlying concerns Mr Willetts and I are referred to in the note. I accept that it imposes a rather artificial structure on what was a brief conversation. The particular words are mine and not his." Mr Willetts said their exchange had taken place in what was, in effect, his first "working week" as a member of the whips' office. Asked whether Sir Geoffrey realised he was speaking to him in that capacity, Mr Willetts replied: "I knew I was a whip and was talking to him on that basis." "As Sir Geoffrey made clear, I did not think that he was saying anything to me that he would not have said to any other colleague. I did not seek him out. He did not seek me out. We bumped into each other. The Neil Hamilton case was the main story of the day. Everyone was talking about it. Sir Geoffrey was exercised because he felt that the No 10 press office had been claiming that [Mr Hamilton] had been cleared on the Committee of Members' Interests." Asked by Mr Duncan-Smith about the phrase "exploiting a good Tory majority", Mr Willetts said: "Those are my words, not his. Certainly Sir Geoffrey did not use such words." Mr Willetts said that he had left the conversation with the sense that Sir Geoffrey had a practical problem of how to proceed. "I thought wrongly that the whips could advise him on it." Asked to explain the phrase "he wants advice", Mr Willetts said: "It means he was in want of advice." Sir Geoffrey had not asked for any advice.

### Standards and Privileges Committee

Chairman: Tony Newton, Leader of the House

Voting members, Conservative: Quentin Davies (Stamford), Iain Duncan-Smith (Chingford), Sir Archie Hamilton (Epsom and Ewell), Dame Jill Knight (Edgbaston), Sir David Mitchell (Hampshire NW) Labour: Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington), John Evans (St Helens N), Ernie Ross (Dundee W), Ann Taylor (Dewsbury) Liberal: Nigel Jones (Cheltenham)

Non-voting law officers: Sir Nicholas Lyell, Attorney General; Sir Derek Spencer, Solicitor General; Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, Lord Advocate; Paul Cullen, Solicitor General for Scotland



Simon Hoggart

INQUIRY SKETCH: Politic event in want of truth

SIR Geoffrey Johnson Smith was questioned gently by the Commons committee on standards and privileges yesterday; it was a most merciful grilling. Sir Geoffrey is a grandee, a reminder of an age before Tory MPs were used car dealers, TV presenters and similar riff-raff. (A colleague reminds me that, he used to be a TV presenter. But that was in the days when TV presenters, like Richard Dimbleby, were far grander than most ministers.) The Leader of the House thanked him for coming. Sir Geoffrey thanked him for his thanks. The committee gently settled down to its task of finding why a government whip, Mr David Willetts, seemed in a memo he had written, to have got hold of the idea that Sir Geoffrey had been willing to nobble the committee on members' interests, which he chaired. Sir Geoffrey was baffled that anyone should entertain such a thought. He

found what Mr Willetts had written "astonishing", a word he uttered in the unastonished manner of an adult admiring a child's conjuring trick. You might imagine that Sir Geoffrey would be cross with Mr Willetts for making such a serious mistake. You would be wrong. We were in the stage world of the select committee, where everyone is estimable, trustworthy and generally fragrant. Indeed, Sir Geoffrey could barely contain his admiration for Mr Willetts, a man of "intellect", blessed with "an inquiring mind", the object of his "deep respect". In spite of this, Sir Geoffrey confessed that he was probably unaware at the time that this mental colossus had actually, been made a whip. Nevertheless, Mr Willetts seemed equally admiring of Sir Geoffrey. The key point of the memo was the phrase: "he wants our advice" with the implication that this meant advice on how best to fix the committee. "This is the sentence in my note which might have been misleading," Mr Willetts said—a remark which would have been greeted by ribald laughter in any more sceptical assembly. Mr Willetts continued: "When I wrote 'he wants our advice', what I meant was 'he is in want of advice'." In the same way a mugger might argue "When I said I wanted his money, what I meant was 'I was in want of his money', mean-

ing purely, mind, that I did not have it." Some of the few tough questions came from Dale Campbell-Savours, a Labour MP with dark, piercing eyes, a low insistent voice, and a shock of curly silver hair blazing in the lights, so that he looked and sounded like the recording angel who will tick off your sins on Judgment Day. Earlier, we watched the spectacular sight of the Deputy Prime Minister cornered. In the past, when people were caught bang to rights by the police, they exercised the right to silence. Now Mr Howard has abolished that. So Mr Heseltine exercises the right to noise. A confidential memo has turned up, suggesting that Hezza wanted to use civil servants to find people who would put across the Government's case. Yesterday he denied everything, noisily. If Mr Heseltine were caught climbing out of someone's front window, dressed in a mask and striped jersey, carrying a sack marked "SWAG", he would deny everything. Last night the Prime Minister said Britain has recovered its "zest": "our pop culture rules the airwaves" and "our capital has been described in an American magazine as 'the coolest city on the planet'." I found this description of the contemporary zeitgeist deeply depressing. He seems to mean that we have recovered as a nation because Chris Evans does the breakfast show on Radio 1.



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صحنه من الامل



# Zaire rebels threaten new attack on refugees

Chris McGreal in Goma

**T**HE leader of the Rwandan-backed rebels who have seized parts of eastern Zaire yesterday threatened a renewed attack on a large refugee camp unless the international community sends troops to neutralise Hutu extremists.

With early outside military intervention seeming increasingly unlikely amid divisions on the United Nations Security Council, Laurent Kabila appeared to be laying the groundwork for breaking his own ceasefire in order to launch a new onslaught against Hutu militias that are using Rwandan refugees as a shield.

Speaking as the first humanitarian aid dribbled into rebel-held areas during the day, Mr Kabila, head of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, warned that the war was about to escalate because Hutu extremists in the Mugunga refugee camp were continuing to shell nearby Goma, the provincial capital seized by rebels 10 days ago. "These people in Mugunga, the former Rwandan army, are still shelling Goma," he said. "Can we continue to be silent when they are killing people in Goma? We must stop the killing of innocent people on our side. If we attack the camp to put out these killers the international community will start crying again; so the solution is for the international community to send troops to neutralise those people in the camps. We hope it can do something before it is too late."

Mr Kabila said his troops were 500 yards from Mugunga but resistance in the camp was proving difficult to break. He said he would accept an international force only from countries he deemed neutral. He said nations such as Sweden would be acceptable but he would prefer troops from African countries such as Mali, Zimbabwe or Ethiopia. French soldiers would be presumed hostile because of Paris's support for Zaire's president, Mobutu Sese Seko. The South African president, Nelson Mandela, said in a television interview yesterday that he would be prepared, in principle, to send troops as part of an international force. He said he would send a delegation to the region to gather information to allow him to decide how big a unit to commit.

Mr Kabila, speaking in the ornate living room of a Zairean general who fled with his troops as the rebels took Goma, said he would not put up with the continued Hutu attacks for the time it would take to deploy foreign troops.

The first aid convoy since the war began crossed from Rwanda to Goma yesterday but it was destined for the town's Zairean residents, who have been without food delivery for a week, not the Rwandan refugees.

The UN overrode the Zairean government's demand that all aid should be directed through the capital, Kinshasa, and none should go to rebel-held areas, sending a small number of lorries carrying enough food to feed a few thousand people for a week. Private charities sent a dozen four-wheel-drive vehicles loaded with biscuits, medicines and blankets.

Aid groups saw the delivery as an exploratory mission to assess conditions in Goma and the possibility of gaining access to hundreds of thousands of people in the Mugunga camp and beyond. The early signs were not good. Aid workers were delayed for hours by bloody-minded officials on both sides of the frontier between Rwanda and Zaire before being herded into the Goma stadium, where they spent last night.

Mr Kabila said his rebels would allow the UN to cross through their lines to negotiate with refugee leaders in Mugunga about delivering food to the camp, which is thought to contain up to 400,000 people. Meanwhile, two Kinshasa campuses, where violent protests against the government handling of the rebellion have been spearheaded, were closed yesterday.

Troops forced students from their beds during the night and smashed roadblocks they had set up, witnesses said. Some businesses in the city closed, fearing further trouble.

## Man in black — with blackest of deeds



Handcuffed Peter Moore arrives at court to face charges of murdering Henry Roberts (top), Edward Carthy, Keith Randles and Anthony Davies

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: KOLO WILLIAMS

# Gay sadist 'stabbed four men to death for fun'

### Unremarkable businessman 'turned into monster by night'

David Ward

**A**SADISTIC homosexual, who stabbed his victims to death for fun with a £25 combat knife, murdered four men in North Wales within three months, a court heard yesterday.

Alex Carille QC, prosecuting, told the jury at Mold crown court that Peter Howard Moore described one of the killings as "a job well done" and had planned to kill another man — his bank manager — but was arrested. Moore, aged 30, denies four charges of murder.

Mr Carille pointed out to the jury that Moore was wearing a black shirt and tie as he sat impassively in the dock between two prison officers.

"Black was his uniform and he was the man in black, with black thoughts and the blackest of deeds," he said. "The defendant by day gave the impression of being an unremarkable businessman with some entrepreneurial flair for opening cinemas. By night he was utterly different. The nocturnal Peter Moore was one of the most dangerous people ever to have set foot in Wales."

Mr Carille said Moore, of Kinnel Bay near Rhyl, was "a homosexual of a particular kind... a violent and predatory sadist."

He told the jury of eight men and four women that Moore, who had bought three cinemas across North Wales and had planned to open a fourth, had an unhealthy interest in the Nazis. He showed the jury photographs of leather clothing, military style caps and handcuffs found at Moore's home and told them of a black trunk Moore kept by his bed for sexual pleasure.

Mr Carille said Moore knifed Keith Randles, a security manager, 12 times on an A5 roadworks site on Anglesey last November 30. He drove home but returned to the murder scene to retrieve a black bow tie lost as Mr Randles fought for his life. Moore allegedly told detec-

tives that Mr Randles begged for his life for the sake of his grandchildren and asked why he was stabbing him. Moore allegedly said he had given a one-word answer. "I just said, 'Fun'... He looked nonplussed... He carried on screaming."

Asked whether killing gave him pleasure, Moore had replied: "Yes, there was a certain enjoyment from it. But it certainly wasn't a sexual enjoyment. It was a job well done."

Retired railway worker Henry Roberts, aged 56, was left lying face down outside his farmhouse on Anglesey last September with his trousers round his ankles and a knife wound in each of his buttocks. He had been stabbed 14 times on the front of his body and 13 on his

back. A Nazi flag that had been on Mr Roberts's wall was found at Moore's home, said Mr Carille. He said Moore met Anthony Davies, aged 48, a crematorium worker from Colwyn Bay, on a beach used by homosexuals. He stabbed him once in the back and five times in the chest, leaving him dead at the water's edge.

The court heard that Moore met Edward Carthy, aged 28, from Birkenhead — "a drug addict and a drunk" — in a gay bar in Liverpool, drove him to a lonely forest near Ruthin and stabbed him seven times. Moore is alleged to have told detectives: "I knifed him four times and killed him. He just collapsed in a heap... I stuffed him behind some trees."

Mr Carille said Moore had killed "coldly, for fun, to relieve tension, to gratify his sadistic instincts". The trial continues today.

## Major threatens to use veto in battle over 48-hour week

continued from page 1

the working time directive represents an important point of principle," said Mr Major, who insisted that issues such as the 48-hour working week were "best resolved between employer and employee".

In his crucial passage, he said: "If the court rules against us, we will require changes in European law to reinforce Britain's protection from such legislation. Our partners know that. And they know that we shall insist upon these changes before we can conclude any new agreement [in Amsterdam]."

Entailing the performance of new industries — broadcasting, tourism, high technology — in a globalised free-trade market, he likened Britain's entrepreneurial classes to the 18th-century Elizabethans who took trade and investment around the world at greater risk.

With Michael Heseltine and other ministers also talking up the feel-good factor at the CHI conference in Harrogate — and decrying both media "pesimists" and Labour's pro-business stance — Mr Major rattled through the familiar list of Tory achievements to insist that, this time, the recovery would not stall.

"If that is so, it is a change of historic importance," he told his City audience, citing privatisation, deregulation and inward investment among his successes. "As a result, we are pulling ahead of the European field."

In yet another move to dampen voter expectations and City fears ahead of the November 26 Budget, he added: "And we'll run the message home with a prudent and sensible Budget — one that will keep us on the path of growth and prosperity for years ahead."

## Biggest brewer starts black market war by ambushing Guinness sales in its pubs

Sarah Ryle on a little local difficulty

**B**ITAIN'S biggest brewery, Scottish & Newcastle, sparked a beer war last night when it admitted that it had withdrawn Guinness from many of its 2,600 nationwide outlets in favour of its own brew.

Drinkers in London's West End were among the first to discover that landlords had been forced to pull their last pints of the black-and-white nectar in favour of cheaper alternatives. Beamish and Gillespie.

S&N brews Gillespie in Scotland, while Beamish is made in Ireland by Cour-

age, which was taken over by S&N in August last year. S&N said the withdrawal was part of an attempt to satisfy customers but refused to say how many pubs were affected.

S&N spokeswoman Frances Knox said: "The takeover of Courage meant an enlargement in the number of beers available to Scottish & Newcastle retail pubs and this has led to a review of the beers and stouts we offer."

"As a result in some pubs, Beamish and Gillespie will now be offered as an alternative to Guinness.

Trials undertaken with customers proved that Beamish and Gillespie were popular alternatives and their introduction has added interest to the product range stocked in pubs."

The move took Guinness executives by surprise and was attacked immediately by trade experts who said it appeared that S&N was trying to squeeze out its competitor.

Guinness public relations director Sean O'Neill said: "We were not aware of this surprising initiative and our immediate action will

be to talk to the brewery. We are naturally concerned to find out more.

"The word alternative is key, because our figures show that consumers prefer draft Guinness to other stouts. We have the biggest share of the market and our share is growing. This may explain why they have done this."

The word in one S&N-tied pub yesterday was that the price of Guinness was set to rise from £2.17 a pint (not at the top end of the range in central London) to £2.27, so the brewery withdrew it — suggesting that S&N was

being squeezed by Guinness. A pint of Beamish was being offered in the same pub at £2.16.

Trade commentators speculated that S&N was not defending customers against price rises, but was seeking to boost its share of an expanding market.

Garth Williams, editor of Free House magazine, said: "Many customers will be very upset that they cannot get a pint of Guinness in their regular pub any more. This move may be seen as Scottish & Newcastle trying to grab a bit of the action back for themselves."

The trial continues today.



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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

News in brief

'Like the movies' for plane birth doctor

BRITISH doctor John Heyworth said yesterday he "only thought it happened in the movies" after he responded to a call for any doctors on board from the captain of a Hong Kong-bound airliner. Mr Heyworth, 43, from Gosport, Hampshire duly stepped forward — and found himself delivering a baby girl to a Filipino woman who had gone into labour at 33,000ft. Mr Heyworth, who works at Southampton general hospital, was going to a conference in Australia when he found himself at work, aided by British Airways stewardess Karen Pitt. He said afterwards: "Fortunately the birth was quick and the baby did all the right things. Karen was a fantastic help." Mother and baby are both well in a Hong Kong hospital.

Menuhin violin appeal

YEHUDI Menuhin has appealed for corporate help to buy a 17th-century Stradivari violin to be played by young virtuoso Leland Chen. Lord Menuhin believes the instrument will be worthy of the rising star who won the Menuhin International Violin Competition. London auctioneer Phillips expect the instrument to sell for up to £700,000 when it is offered on November 27.

Knife killers sentenced

TWO thugs who knifed student Tundi Obanubi, 20, to death in the grounds of Newham college in East Ham, east London, on February 27 last year after hunting him down in a 16-strong mob "like a pack of animals" following a dispute over use of a ping pong table, received life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday. At their trial in May, Saed Nur, 27, of Manor Park, and student Umran Qadir, 17, from East Ham, both east London, were found guilty of murder, but the jury could not agree on the case of a third man, student Yusuf Sofu, 20, of Leytonstone, east London. Yesterday, however, Sofu was discharged by the judge after being cleared by a second jury of murder and manslaughter. The judge then lifted a ban on publication of the sentences of Nur, who was jailed for life, and Qadir, ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's Pleasure. A fourth defendant, Kazi Rahman, 21, was cleared of murder, manslaughter and violent disorder at the first trial.

British Museum textile coup

THE British Museum is to open a new World Textile Centre as part of its £20 million study and store development, with a £1 million grant from the Clothworkers' Foundation. Many of the museum's 18,000 items of textiles — such as a Tahitian mourning dress of bark cloth and pearl shell presented to Captain Cook in the 18th century — were too fragile or bulky to display in the past, but may now go on show for the first time in the new centre in 1999. The textile centre will be housed in the new £20 million British Museum Study Centre, a former Royal Mail sorting office near the Bloomsbury site. — *Maeve Kennedy*

T S Eliot prize shortlist

SEAMUS Heaney and Adrian Mitchell are among 10 poets on the shortlist for the £5,000 T S Eliot prize, announced yesterday. Judges Andrew Motion, Helen Dunmore and Ruth Padel picked the list of the 10 best collections of the year, and will also choose the winner of the prize donated by Eliot's widow Valerie, to be announced on January 13. Others on the shortlist are Claran Carson, Maura Dooley, John Fuller, Stephen Knight, Les Murray, Alice Oswald, Christopher Reid and Susan Wicks.

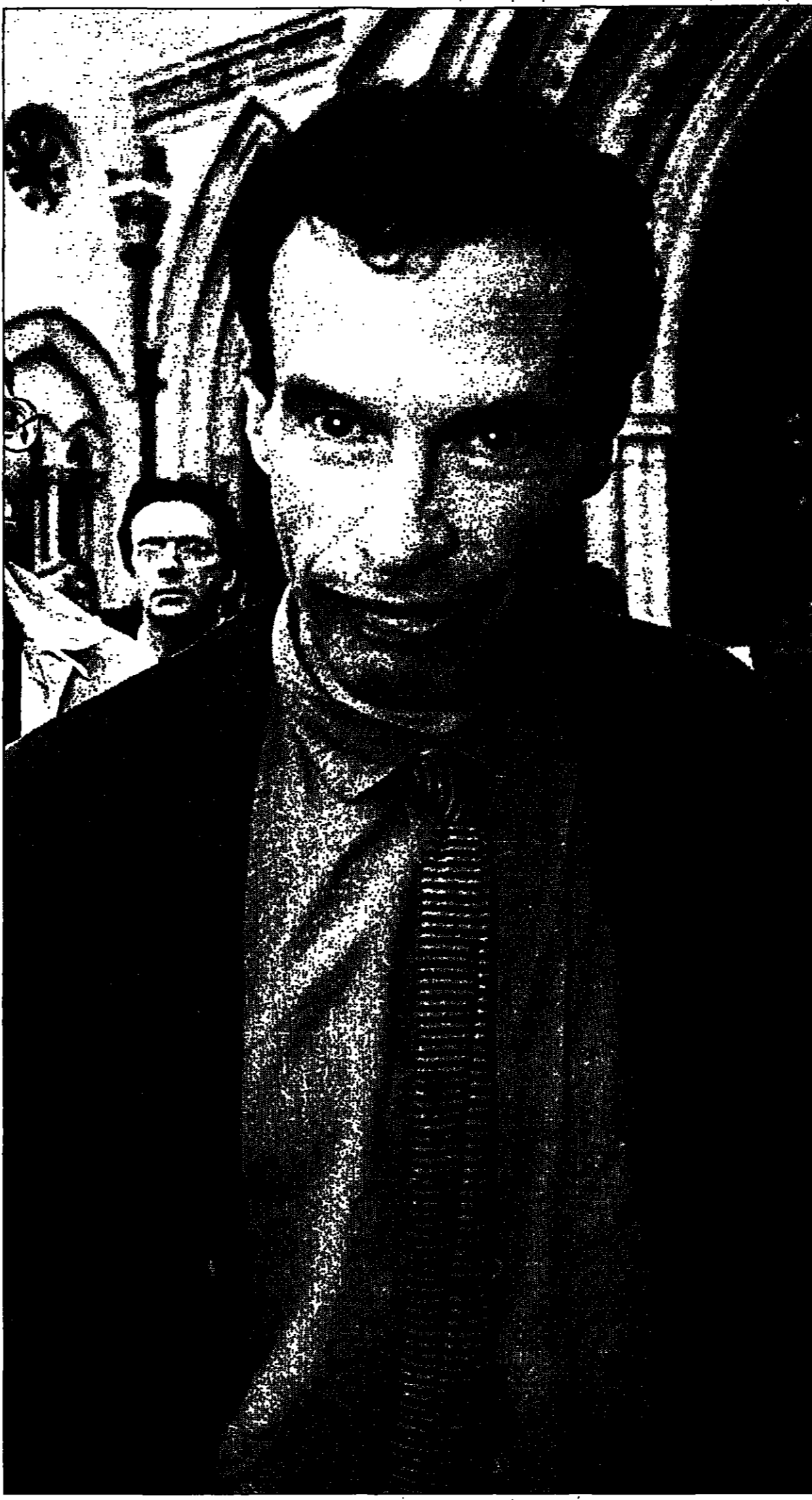
Campaign for 'veteran trees'

AN oak that was well established when William the Conqueror landed in 1066 was the focal point of a new campaign launched yesterday to stop the felling of Britain's ancient trees, when a new oak sapling was planted under its 1,000-year-old boughs in Windsor Great Park to mark the start of Veteran Tree Initiative. The campaign, launched by English Nature, aims to combat the belief that because a tree is rotten or misshapen it should be felled. English Nature said hollow trunks and dead boughs are part of the normal ageing process and should be valued, but many such trees are felled for commercial reasons between the ages of 50 and 200 years and would live far longer if allowed. Naturalist David Bellamy said: "Britain is the only country in Europe with this amazing collection of ancient trees. It is probably due to the fact that we have not had war in this country for a very long time. We need to put those ancient trees at the heart of the community."

£1m sale twice expectations

THE sale of more than 1,000 pieces of furniture and household items accumulated by a north Devon family over the past 500 years raised more than £1 million at auction yesterday. Sotheby's, which handled the sale for the Chichester family on the 2,500-acre Hall estate near Barnstaple had set a target of £500,000 for the sale. — *Geoffrey Gibbs*

Injunction sought after claims of vandalism



Robert Fine at the High Court yesterday, when he sought an injunction against mature student Eileen McLardy

Woman student 'stalked' lecturer

Sarah Boswell

A SOCIOLOGY lecturer alleged in court yesterday that his life was "being made miserable" by a female mature student who was stalking him, apparently to avenge the "improper sexual desires" she believed he once harboured for her. Robert Fine is seeking a high court injunction to ban his former student, Eileen McLardy, a 50-year-old mother of three, from molesting or harassing him or approaching within 30ft of his home in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. Dr Fine, also 50, a senior lecturer at Warwick university, told the court he believed Mrs McLardy was behind a succession of unpleasant events. His office was broken into twice, and a computer was taken. His car was attacked four times — it was broken into and the steering wheel torn off on one occasion — and it was twice driven away. He is claiming damages for 140 separate incidents of harassment between 1994 and 1996.

Mrs McLardy denies all the allegations and is countering that she was assaulted, verbally abused and harassed by Dr Fine on various occasions. She also seeks a restraining order against him and damages. The stalking began, it is alleged, in August 1994, after a complaint by Mrs McLardy of sexual harassment against the lecturer was thrown out by the university authorities. Ashley Underwood, for Dr Fine, said that the former student, often with her husband, Angus McLardy, would walk up and down on Newbold Common outside Dr Fine's house, appear at the end of the driveway and look in through the windows. She would parade up and down outside the house "with an eerie fixed grin on her face" until she had made sure she had been seen.

She also followed Dr Fine to and from the local swimming pool, sometimes getting into the pool when he was there. At the university, where she is still registered as a student because she has not yet taken her exams, even though she has completed her two-year degree course, she would turn up near the lecture theatre where Dr Fine was due to

speak or watch his seminar through a window.

Mr Underwood said Mrs McLardy had been a part-time student on Dr Fine's course, while nursing a sick mother, and a child. It appears she came under stress and got it into her head that Dr Fine harboured some sort of improper sexual desires toward her. This turned into a vendetta against him, he told Judge Thompson.

In cross-examination by Peter Gootley, for Mrs McLardy, Dr Fine said the problems began after he had words with her for insulting another student. After the following week's seminar, Mrs McLardy asked to see him. "She accused me of having sexually harassed her the previous week. That's when she first said that this could lose me my job and she said that she hoped I was not going to deny her allegation. I said I certainly was because there

'She would parade outside the house with an eerie fixed grin on her face'

was no truth to it." In lectures after that, Mrs McLardy stared at Dr Fine but was quiet, he said, although she would call to see him afterwards.

Sometimes she did aggressive things like pass a note to all the other students in the class, asking whether they had been sexually harassed by me as well."

After the disciplinary hearing dismissed Mrs McLardy's allegations, the "stalking behaviour", as Dr Fine called it, began. He told Mrs McLardy and her family that he considered her a stalker.

There were times when he felt physically threatened by "the level of venom and hatred" she poured into him. "She has said things like, 'I'll destroy you.'" Sometimes she would suddenly appear at night.

He had tried to ignore her, he said. "It was very hard to open the curtains in the morning and you see this face looking in."

Dr Fine denied the suggestion by Mr Gootley that he had struck Mrs McLardy during a row with his elbow at the swimming pool. The case continues.

Lords defeat for love-tug mother

Claire Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

THREE children in a tug of love battle must be sent back to Israel, their father's home country, the House of Lords ruled yesterday. The solicitor for the 24-year-old British mother said she was "absolutely devastated." The children, aged four, three and one, have spent the last year with her in Britain. The parents, whose identity is protected by a court order, are orthodox Jews who contracted an arranged marriage in May 1991 and settled in Israel. The mother fled to Eng-

land last November, taking the children. A High Court judge ruled last July that the children must be returned at once to their father. But the mother won an emergency appeal and a week later three Appeal Court judges reversed the decision and held that the English courts should decide their future. In an unusual emergency ruling yesterday, the law lords overturned the Appeal Court's decision. They will give their reasons later this month. The mother's solicitor, Helen Sowerby of the Princess of Wales's law firm, Mishcon de Reya, said her cli-

ent could not let the children return to Israel without her. She was on legal aid, and had no alternative but to accompany the children back to Israel and continue the legal battle there. The key question the law lords had to decide was whether or not the father, aged 28, could be said to have "acquiesced" in the mother's removal of the children. Their decision implies that they decided he did not. Under the Hague Convention on international child abduction, children are meant to be returned quickly to the jurisdiction of their home courts. But the rule need not be enforced if the parent who

stays behind acquiesces in their removal. The Appeal Court judges said last July that both parents had involved their local rabbinical courts, the Beth Din, in the case. There was no objection to this, but the father should also have demanded his children's immediate return through the channels set up under the convention. He asked the mother to let the children spend the Passover holiday with him in Israel, promising to return them to England if she agreed. She refused, but the appeal judges said his request supported the inference that he had acquiesced in the children's removal.

Oxford widens search for business school site

John Carvel  
Education Editor

OXFORD university's ruling executive decided yesterday to seek an alternative site for a £40 million international business school after last week's unexpected defeat when donors voted against plans to build on a supposedly protected city centre sports field. The 24-member Hebdomadal Council said it was not abandoning its proposal to establish a world class management studies department on the land stipulated by Wafiq Said, the Middle Eastern businessman who has offered to give £20 million towards the project. It agreed a formal resolution to call for a postal vote of the university's 3,200 dons on whether the project should go ahead on the site on Mansfield Road. But the ballot will be deferred until next term and the council will "redouble its efforts to find an alternative and central site, acceptable to both the university and the benefactor," a spokeswoman said. The Hebdomadal Council includes Lord Jenkins, the university's chancellor, and Peter North, the vice-chancellor, who argued vehemently last week that the sports ground would be the only central site available in time to meet Mr Said's requirements. The decision to try harder to find an alternative came after warnings from the city planning authorities that they would not be bounced into giving permission for building on the land, which was sold to the university in the 1980s on condition that it would never be developed.

Abbey repays Betjeman with a column in Poet's Corner

John Ezard

SIR John Betjeman, the late Poet Laureate who loved Westminster Abbey, was treated with honour bordering on favouritism there last night. He got — as eminent authors usually do — a memorial in Poet's Corner. But it wasn't just a plain window tablet. For Sir John, who died in 1984, the most lavish of roccoco tablets was installed on a pillar. It was unveiled by his friend and fellow-versifier, Lady Wilson of Rievaulx, widow of the Labour prime minister. His friend, the author and soldier, Patrick Leigh Fermor, gave an address. Also present was the bombarded, earnestly praying



Sir John Betjeman  
Knightsbridge socialite Sir John created in his poem in Westminster Abbey. Think of what our Nation stands for. Books from Boots and country lanes. Free speech, free passes, class distinction, Democracy and proper drains. Lord, put beneath thy special care. One-eighty-nine Cadogan Square.

Secret inquiry into doctor's death diagnosis mistake

Nick Varley

A DOCTOR who wrongly pronounced a woman dead yesterday appeared before an independent inquiry investigating the misdiagnosis. Marian Meeson was called to explain the circumstances of the case of widow Maureen Jones, who collapsed at her home in Driffield, North Yorkshire, in April. Mrs Jones, aged 59, was about to be carried to a hearse outside her home when two police officers noticed her left leg twitch. They managed to resuscitate her from what was thought to have been a diabetic coma and she was taken to Scarborough hospital, where she made a full recovery. Dr Meeson, aged 43, refused to comment on the case as she arrived at the hearing in York which is being held in private

by professional and lay members of County Durham health authority, which was asked to examine the case by North Yorkshire health authority. As well as Dr Meeson, a senior GP in a practice in Hummanby, near Filey, North Yorkshire, who was not Mrs Jones's GP, other witnesses called yesterday included the policeman. Mrs Jones, who recently said she was still traumatised and that her children had been to "hell and back" after being told she was dead, will not officially be told of the result of the hearing. Only the health authority and Dr Meeson have to be informed of it. But her solicitor Nigel Walshe called for publication of the report: "It is inexcusable it has taken seven months to come to a conclusion and we hope the authority makes public its findings."

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Campaign for action over teenage lawlessness stepped up as figures reveal the problems caused by hardcore were underestimated

# Young offenders rampant, say police

**Peter Hetherington**

**SENIOR** police officers in an area plagued by juvenile crime yesterday pleaded for fresh initiatives to tackle teenage lawlessness after producing figures showing they had underestimated the problem of persistent offenders.

Northumbria police identified 58 youngsters — most 15 or younger — officially responsible for 1,079 crimes in Newcastle upon Tyne last year and arrested on 833 occasions.

They include one boy arrested 37 times in a year, who was a thief and burglar at 11, and another thought to have committed at least 300 crimes. He has been arrested 64 times in three years. Six months ago he stole an army motorcycle and an automatic rifle — both later recovered — after absconding from a remand centre.

But on the assumption that the 58 have committed an average of 7.8 crimes for every arrest, the report estimates that they could have been res-

**Case 1**

**TEENAGER**, just turned 15, has been arrested 23 times this year with eight court appearances "some of them multiple", according to police report. Came into care of local authority in 1987. Regularly absconds. Stolen almost all fixtures and fittings from one home. "Clever... steals with professional expertise," the report says. Earlier this year was said to have moved into category of Block Offending. At present on bail facing seven more charges.

**Case 2**

**BOY** aged 15, arrested 37 times in 12 months. First came to attention of police in October '92 for offences ranging from burglary and theft to damage. First given a conditional discharge. Since then offences include taking cars without the owner's consent, failure to appear at court and absconding from secure units. Imposition of evening "curfews" as a condition of bail seemed to have had little effect.

**Case 3**

**BOY**, aged 15, father in jail. Arrested almost 70 times since 1992 for taking cars, burglary, theft and more petty vandalism. Many crimes undertaken while on bail or after absconding from council care. Police claim he can be linked, at least indirectly, with almost 300 offences. Earlier this year allegedly stole an army motorcycle and automatic rifle. Regularly released on bail only to disappear. Police say he is out of control.

istent offenders, said last night. "The report has shown that this is a much larger problem than had previously been recognised. Communities have to be protected from a relatively small number of young criminals."

Police files detail a hardcore of young offenders, too young to be placed in secure accommodation, who, officers say, have what amounts to a licence to commit serious crime.

Surveillance teams from intelligence units are targeting persistent offenders. Young informers also form part of the intelligence network.

Chief Inspector Keith Felton, in charge of operations in Newcastle's West End command area, said officers were frustrated by the inability of the judicial system to cope with young offenders.

"We have shown that if these people are in custody crime levels are reduced, but we have to look at ways of improving these young criminals as individuals and I am not convinced that locking them up always does that — although it does improve the lives of people in the area."

## Forces push for shake-up of youth justice

**Alan Travis**  
**Home Affairs Editor**

**THE** disclosure by Northumbria police of information on 58 youngsters responsible for more than 1,000 crimes is the latest stage in the police campaign for a shake-up of the youth justice system.

The campaign to highlight the problems posed by persistent young offenders has been running since the early 1990s when police first went public on the criminal records of children dubbed "Ratboy" and "Spiderboy". They showed that these young teenagers were "one-boy crime waves".

The Government responded by promising to set up a national network of privately run secure training centres to hold and educate the 12 to 14-year-olds concerned. At the same time, the Department of Health promised to expand the number of 285 local authority secure places for teenagers in trouble by a further 170 places. That was in 1993.

Both the Home Office and the Department of Health confirmed yesterday that so far neither pledge has been fulfilled. Contracts for two of the five promised secure training centres have been awarded to Tarmac and Group 4, but building has not yet started. Negotiations are still going on about where the other three will be built.

As far as the extra 170 local authority secure places are concerned, they will not all be available until the middle of next year, said a Department of Health spokesman.

In the meantime, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, has promised new remedies, including curfew orders enforced by electronic tags for children as young as 10.

Rob Allen, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said the extra 170 secure places were already partly spoken for to fulfil a long-standing commitment to end the remand in prison of 15- and 16-year-olds and to house the teenage criminals convicted of murder and serious crimes.

However, some will be used to allow the courts to remand 12- to 15-year-olds directly to local authority secure units. "The police underestimate the powers available not necessarily to the courts but to the local authorities," said Mr Allen. "Most of these youngsters do end up being placed in secure accommodation. They are arguing that courts and police should be given these powers directly."

## Last Post stills world's busiest airport

**Nation heeds plea for work day homage to war dead**

### Stuart Millar on the sound of silence

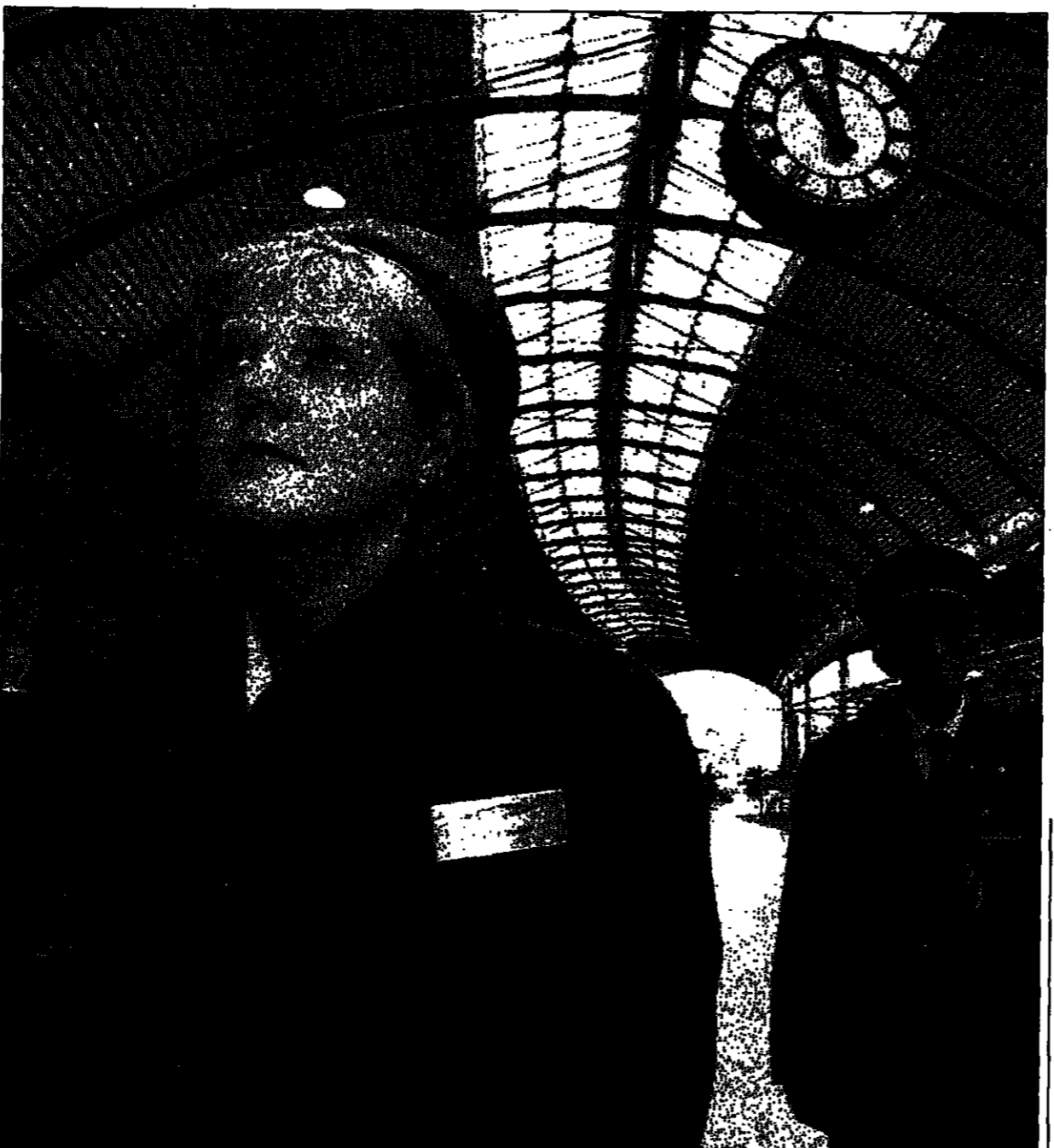
**STUART MILLAR**

**AT** 11am yesterday, the world's busiest airport fell silent. The roar of jet engines was replaced by a higher sounding the Last Post before thousands of passengers and staff paused in quiet tribute to the nation's war dead.

It was a remarkable scene repeated across the country as millions of people marked the first time that the silence — commemorating the end of the first world war at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 — had been held on a weekday since the 1930s. Since the tradition of commemorating Armistice Day was suspended during the second world war, the silence has been observed on the nearest Sunday.

But yesterday, the public marked what has been dubbed the "people's silence".

The Royal British Legion, which led the campaign for the revival of a fixed November 11 silence, said the response was overwhelming. It estimated that at least two-thirds of the country had taken part — compared with around half last year when



German-born Angela Buddo and Ken Copeland, staff at Newcastle Central station, observe the silence. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM FINNEY

## A new light on the 'lucky' wars and the 'hard' wars

### John Ezard on army records

**THE** brief, lucky war of the romantic film star Ronald Colman, and Joe Stone's longer, pitiful time in the trenches, are revealed in papers made newly available by the Public Records Office.

Colman got an honourable discharge with a sprained ankle after nine months' service. He went on to play heroes like Beau Geste. His biographers boasted of his "wound".

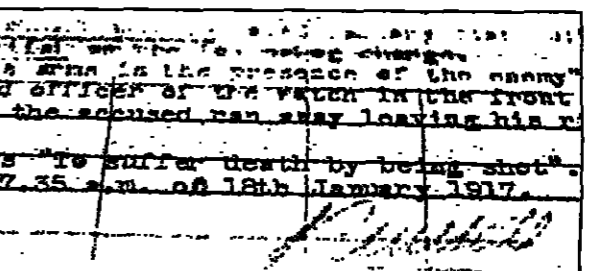
Stone fought through the worst year of the 1914-18 war and died, psychiatrically ill and disgraced, in front of a firing squad with a letter starting "Dear Daddy" in his pocket. His widow and daughter were at first refused a war pension.

Few had heard of him until the records office disclosed his official documents in an exhibition at Kew. With Colman's, and those of the war poet, Ivor Gurney, and the painter, Stanley Spencer, they are among the first batch of first world war personal records to be released.

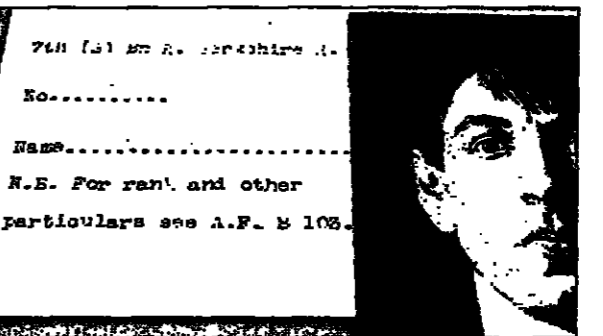
They cover only 8 per cent of the millions of British soldiers who fought.



Film star Ronald Colman in the exhibition at Kew...



... the record of the execution of Joe Stone in France...



... and Stanley Spencer's war

But the office, which has had £350,000 in National Lottery funding for a pilot project, hopes to make available the records of a further 25 per cent within five years.

The project involves microfilming 33,000 boxes of papers retained for 75 years because of their "personal sensitivity". It will be seized on by social historians eager to find out the height, weight and background of the armies.

But it tells a wider story, and resurrects the tragedies of battle-worn men like Joe Stone, of the Durham Light Infantry.

Enlisting in 1915, Lance Sgt Stone was court-martialled and shot in 1917 after "shamefully" throwing away his rifle and fleeing when Germans attacked his trench at Arras. His medical papers said he was in a nervous state and had trouble walking. But the battalion doctor certified that he was physically fit.

A military prisoner who cleaned away the traces of the execution wrote: "I could tell you of the silence of the military police after reading the letter from his little girl to 'Dear Daddy' and of the bloodstained show which horrified the French peasants."

In 1919 his widow was awarded a £5 a week pension, with a 6s 8d (83p) weekly gratuity for their daughter. The free exhibition at Ruskin Avenue, Kew, continues till January 17.

## Heads attack retirement curbs

### Donald MacLeod

**MINISTERS** are facing a backlash from head teachers and college principals over moves to clamp down on the early retirement deals for burnt-out teachers.

Heads fear they will be left with a resentful rump of teachers in their mid-50s who had expected to retire early and will be unable to recruit new blood. Morale would suffer and staff costs would rise, the head teachers' bodies and the Association of Colleges are telling the Government. Some are predicting sackings.

Head teachers last week rounded on Eric Forth, the Education Minister, at what participants called a stormy meeting to protest against the changes.

From April, local education authorities, schools and colleges will have to bear the extra costs of early retirement which have been met by the Teachers' Superannuation Scheme.

Fears of a looming teacher shortage, combined with a warning from Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General — Parliament's financial watchdog — that the teachers' pension scheme was deep in debt, have pushed ministers into announcing the measure. The Government also hopes to make savings — money heads say will be lost to schools and colleges.

More than 150,000 teachers have taken early retirement or resigned because of ill health in the past 10 years — three times the number who have left work at the normal retiring age. With retirement

not be in the interests of the children.

"If you do not let people retire you retain the most expensive teachers and do not replace them with cheaper new teachers so there will be a net increase in the cost of the teaching force."

John Brennan, the Association of Colleges' director of development, said colleges faced with financial difficulties would no longer be able to offer compensation packages and would have to resort to making staff redundant. "It is going to become a much more painful process for many institutions. A lot of principals have been jumping up and down about it."

Colleges also fear their employer contributions could go through the roof after 2000 because the Government has not been paying enough into the superannuation scheme.

## Alarm over urban foxes 'ill founded'

### Stuart Millar

**WILDLIFE** experts yesterday moved quickly to calm public fears over foxes after reports that a baby was attacked as he lay in his pram.

Five-month-old Phillip Sheppard, from Croydon, south London, was recovering at home yesterday after being mauled by a fox, his parents said. A fox in the family's conservatory last week. He was taken by ambulance to the Mayday hospital, Croydon, where he was treated with antibiotics.

His father, Marc, a computer consultant aged 37, said he had complained to Croydon council last month about the number of foxes which roam the streets at night after he found a pack of seven in his garden. The council said



Urban fox... no real threat, say conservationists

pest control officers had been called in.

The attack has intensified concerns about the growing numbers of foxes in urban centres. But animal welfare groups insisted humans had

little to fear. A spokeswoman for the RSPCA said: "Urban foxes have never posed much of a problem to people or domestic animals and we don't think there is a major problem."

Matthew Frith, conservation manager of the London Wildlife Trust, said: "This is a very atypical example. Urban foxes have become less shy, but they are not really aggressive."

While foxes have long been attracted to the suburbs by leafy undergrowth and a plentiful food supply, conservationists believe they are moving into cities in search of new territory.

While no detailed national figures are available, the latest estimates show 215 fox family groups in Edinburgh and 633 in Glasgow. According to Mr Frith, foxes are frequently sighted in Oxford Street and in Soho Square in central London.

"As their numbers grow, the males get displaced to find new territories. The territories are smaller, so there is a greater density of urban foxes now."

He warned local authorities against taking hasty action. "We are told by councils that they are coming under pressure from residents. But our story is that they will do this without looking at the long-term impact."

Martin Hemmington, of the National Fox Welfare Society, said: "Most people who have foxes in their garden don't even know about it, and most that do welcome the animals."

He dismissed fears that urban foxes carried disease. "Urban foxes are more healthy than those in the countryside."



6 WORLD NEWS

Nordic bikers deny killing

Agencies in Copenhagen

FOUR Hells Angels and two gang supporters went on trial yesterday for the murder of a rival Bandido motorcycle gang member...

The six men pleaded not guilty to the murder of Larsen, a member of the rival Bandido motorcycle gang...

On the day of the attack another Bandido was wounded at Oslo airport in Norway. Until the airport shootings, gang attacks had taken place near the bikers' rural clubhouses...

Recent attacks have included a shooting outside the main post office in Oslo and an anti-tank grenade fired into the Hells Angels Copenhagen headquarters...

In total, at least nine people have been killed and 46 wounded in the three-year feud.

Security measures on the trial's first day included an armed police escort into the Eastern High Court for the defendants.

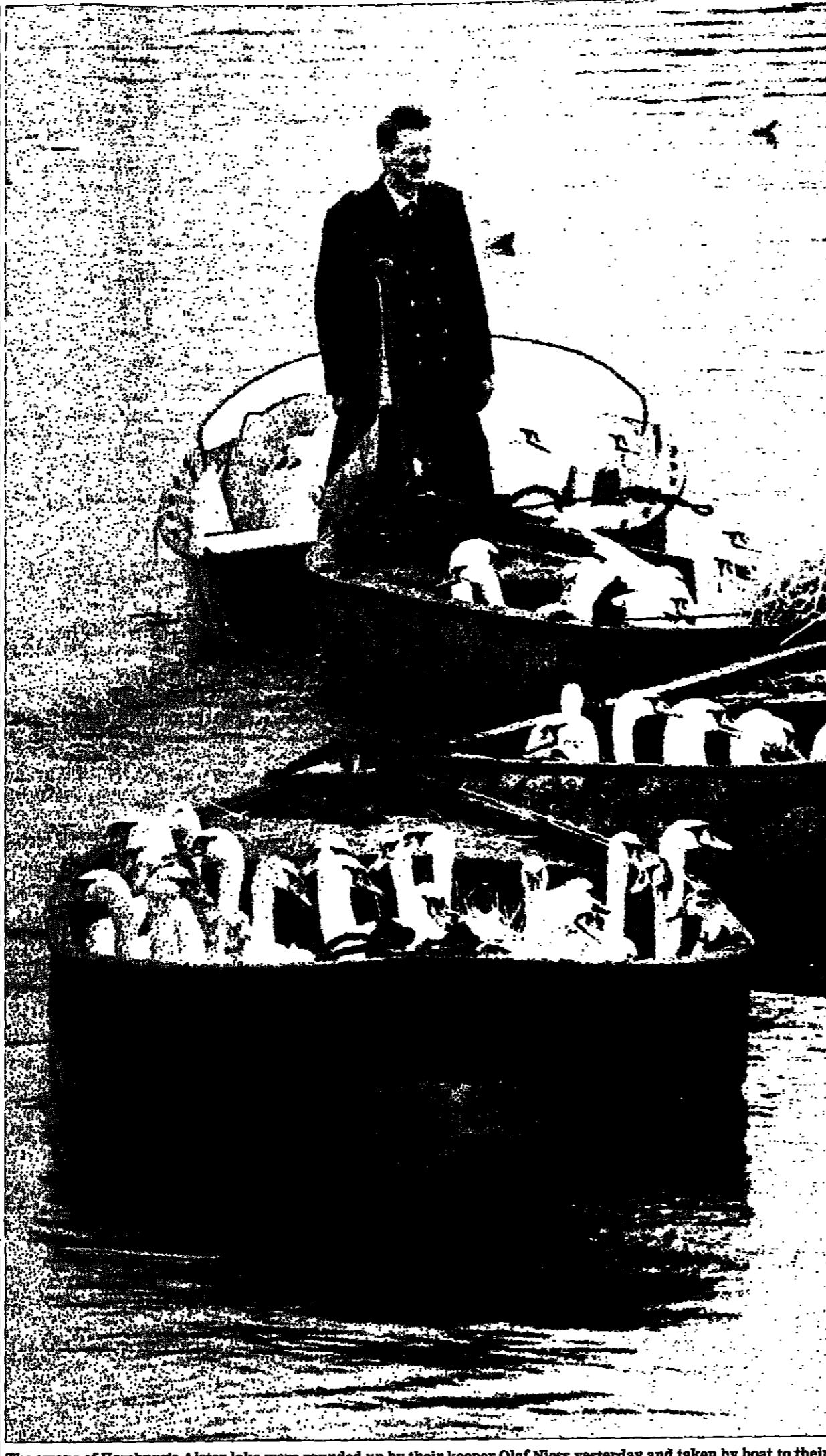
Armed police also surrounded the court building and marksmen could be seen on nearby roofs. Streets near the courthouse have been closed to traffic because of fears of car bombs.

No one with a criminal record was allowed into the public gallery, and journalists and observers were body-searched before entering the courtroom.

The defendants, who cannot be named under a court order, have been held separately since their arrests and gave each other a bikers' hug when they met.

The prosecution, which claimed the six men "plotted and conspired homicide" did not identify the one alleged to have shot Larsen. The prosecution will try to convince the jury that the bikers should be sentenced as a group and not as individuals.

If found guilty, they face a life sentence. Sixty-nine people are due to take the stand, including a non-biker who is expected to be the key witness. He tried to avoid a court appearance after threats from the Hells Angels, but the Supreme Court ruled in September that he must testify.

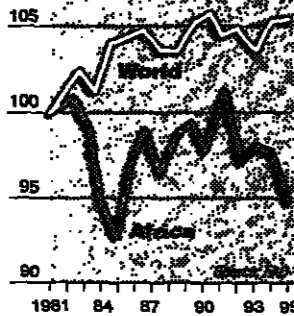


The swans of Hamburg's Alster lake were rounded up by their keeper Olaf Niess yesterday and taken by boat to their winter accommodation. They will be set free next spring. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL PROBST

Food summit targets women

Food production

Per person, index: 1981=100



IN THE heady days of the "Green Revolution", recalls Marie Randriamamonjy, foreign development workers devised a scheme to plant high-yielding rice in West Africa. The chosen variety had an unusually short stalk. Time went by, but the size of the harvests failed to increase. "Then they found out that it was not the men, but the women, who did the harvesting. The women went into the fields with babies strapped to their backs, and harvesting the rice had become almost impossible for them because the new strain was so close to the ground," says Ms Ran-

The World Food Summit opens in Rome tomorrow aiming to find a way of halving the world's undernourished people in the next two decades from 840 million. For entirely practical reasons, reports John Hooper, those concerned with food aid and development regard the female of the species as their priority

driamamonjy, of the UN's Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). One of the more striking aspects of the frequently opaque declaration to be adopted at the FAO-sponsored World Food Summit, which begins in Rome tomorrow, is the emphasis on the role of women. On the very first page, heads of state and government are called on to acknowledge the "fundamental contribution to food security by women". This has little to do with political correctness. For entirely practical reasons, development workers increasingly see women as their priority targets. The International Food Policy Research Institute has said that "income in the hands of women contributes more to household food security and child nutrition than income controlled by men", according to a study published last year.

The director of the FAO's women and population division, Leena Kirjavainen, said she reached a similar conclusion during her years as an educational adviser in Sudan and Tanzania. "If money is given to women, it is generally used for their better nutrition, better clothing, and for the welfare of the household. If it's given to men, it tends to be spent on electronic goods, a new bicycle maybe, or - if we're to be really frank - on prostitution, alcohol and other forms of consumption that don't help the family".

The World Food Programme (WFP), another UN body based in Rome, insists that 80 per cent of its food aid be given directly to households, usually through the senior female member. Ironically, since women and girls are believed to account for seven out of ten of the planet's hungry, it is they



FAO secretary-general, Jacques Diouf in Rome

who produce much of the food. Latest estimates put the proportion at 80 per cent in Africa and 60 per cent in Asia, much higher than developed countries had thought. The level seems to be rising. As men migrate to the cities, the world is seeing a process which Dr Kirjavainen calls "the feminisation of agriculture and poverty". Women often lack the education needed to cope with their new responsibilities. Two out of every three illiterates in the world are women. There is thus an increasingly strong belief that, in the long term, the best way to feed the world's poor will be to educate its women. The WFP's director in Pakistan, Peter Jobber, began putting that idea into practice with a scheme to give families a can of cooking oil for every month each of their daughters spent at primary school. "Fairly typically in the more conservative, rural areas, only about a quarter of the girls are even enrolled. Actual attendance can be as low as 5 to 10 per cent," he says. The WFP targeted Baluchistan and Frontier Province - poor, arid regions along the borders with Iran and Afghanistan, where purdah is the norm. "In two years we have doubled enrolment, and the attendance of the girls who are enrolled has increased to 85 per cent", says Mr Jobber. He believes the success of the programme suggests these areas are "not as conservative as outsiders think". He encountered little resistance on grounds of religion

Aid vital for Africa despite rising global supplies

GLOBAL food supplies are rising, but the FAO believes some of the world's poorer countries still need aid on a vast scale, writes John Hooper in Rome. A special report, released ahead of this week's World Food Summit said: "Forty per cent of the total population of sub-Saharan Africa is already chronically undernourished and this number could rise unless action is taken." The summit declaration, which has already been agreed by officials, will

commit the international community to halving the number of undernourished people in the world by the year 2015. The FAO has neither sought nor obtained pledges of hard cash to back the words in its document. The agency's latest forecast for this year's global cereal production was 1.65 billion tonnes, seven per cent higher than in 1995. End-of-season cereal carry-over stocks were set for their first increase in

four years. Production of rice was also forecast to rise significantly. Yet there was famine in parts of Liberia. Somalia was suffering from a combination of drought, flooding and insect damage, and both Angola and Mozambique had large displaced populations. Sub-Saharan Africa is still producing less food per person than it did 30 years ago. The FAO's report was written before the crisis in eastern Zaire.

EU partners warned of threat to single currency

Bonn digs in heels on budget rules

John Palmer in Brussels

GERMANY warned yesterday that it will not agree to launch the single European currency until its European partners back stricter limits on the budget deficits that governments are allowed. Agreement on the stability pact for single-currency countries is the last big obstacle in the way of an agreement on monetary union. EU finance ministers meeting in Brussels failed to agree on the circumstances under which countries will be allowed to run deficits above the 3 per cent target set by the Maastricht treaty.

He also dismissed accusations by Tory Eurosceptics that Britain would be legally bound by the discipline of the stability pact if it stayed outside the single currency. But he conceded that Britain still had an interest in ensuring that the euro was run as a stable currency. "The stability and success of that euro-zone will have an effect on the economic well-being of every member of the European Union," he said. "An excessive deficit in one country in the euro-zone could put upward pressure on interest rates for all countries, [including] interest rates in non-member countries."

The stability and success of those in monetary union will have an effect on the economic well-being of every EU member

European Union," he said. "An excessive deficit in one country in the euro-zone could put upward pressure on interest rates for all countries, [including] interest rates in non-member countries."

He added: "In many ways I am proposing tougher targets for budgetary balance than are set out in the Maastricht treaty." He said any chancellor who needed "to be reminded of the need to reduce an excessive deficit would not be doing his duty in the interests of the country."

At the heart of the dispute between Germany and the rest of the EU is whether the "temporary and exceptional circumstances" which might justify bigger budget deficits should be rigidly defined in statistical terms.

Bonn says that a country can only expect to run a deficit above 3 per cent of GDP if output falls by 2 per cent in a year; others want the EU Council of Ministers to judge each case on the circumstances.

"The Germans are virtually alone on this and they will have to recognise this fact," Mr Clarke said.

But Ruairi Quinn, the Irish president of the council of EU finance ministers, said he was "optimistic that we will be able to come to an agreement on this by the Dublin summit in December".

The Commission may now draw up proposals defining in figures how serious a recession must be for the rules of monetary union to be waived. However, it will insist that the Council of Ministers has the last word. "We made more progress today in resolving the issues surrounding monetary union, including the legal status of the euro and the rules which will apply to countries inside and outside of the new European exchange rate system," the EU finance commissioner, Yves Thibault de Silguy, said. "We still need to do more work on the stability pact. But there is a general will to reach an agreement next month."

External strike force for Bosnia rejected by Nato

The international community agrees on the form of future involvement in Bosnia, reports David Fairhall

in Bosnia and a reaction force of 5,000 based outside the region. However, final political approval for the force is delayed on a new United Nations security council resolution to extend the peacekeeping mandate which will expire on December 20.

The non-Nato members of the I-For peacekeeping force would also have to be consulted. A series of ministerial meetings are expected to be held early next month. More than 10,000 of the 60,000 troops originally committed to I-For by 33 countries have been withdrawn.

By December 20 another 20,000 troops will follow, leaving the numbers necessary for the follow-on force. However, it is expected that different military units will be involved, and they will be commanded from different Nato headquarters.

The ambassadors had four main options from which to choose yesterday. The remaining two - to pull out altogether, or to continue with the present sized force - were quickly rejected.

Before the meeting there had been some support for an external deterrent force. The Hungarian government had been asked, and had agreed, to extend the American lease on the base from which US troops were deployed to Bosnia last year.

Gen Joulwan, who argued against the proposal in Brussels yesterday, would have received strong support from the British military establishment.

But the United States general also warned ambassadors that a reduced military force, albeit fully involved on the ground, would not be able to make the same contribution as I-For has done over the past year.

Peace troops end clashes

MUSLIMS and Serbs traded shots in a dispute over returning refugees in north-eastern Bosnia yesterday, a UN spokesman said. Troops from the Nato-led peace force were dispatched to restore order. Shooting broke out in the town of Koraj when about 500 Muslims attempted to return to their homes across the boundary line established under the Dayton peace accord. - Reuters.

Sacked Serb generals refuse to step down

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

TWO OF the most senior Bosnian Serb military commanders are refusing to accept their dismissal by political leaders and have told Nato that they will stay at their posts. The Bosnian Serb president, Biljana Plavsic, sacked General Ratko Mladic, the wartime commander known as the "Butcher of the Balkans", and his general staff on Friday in an attempt to wrest control of the fiercely independent Serb army. A little-known major-general, Pero Colic, was appointed as the new army head. Nato sources said that Gen Colic had served as a major in western Bosnia during the war, and the peacekeeping force had had no previous dealings with him. But General Zdravko Tomic, the sacked general's deputy, arrived at Nato headquarters in Sarajevo yesterday morning and - according to Nato officers - told his opposite number there, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, that General Mladic would stay at his post. "He said he's the guy to deal with," said Major Brett Boudreau, a Nato spokesman. Another high-ranking Serb officer, General Milan Gvero, told the Associated Press news agency that neither he, General Mladic, nor General Manojlo Milovanovic - who was also dismissed on Friday - intended to step down. Gen Gvero said that they would reject any attempt to remove them. "Not a single army unit, not a single officer, supports this move," Gen Gvero said. "A parallel central command has been created... and that is simply a dismissal of the chiefs of staff and a dangerous attempt to create dis-

cord among the Serb people." He added: "We are fulfilling our duties and we will try to find a solution which will not jeopardise the interests of the Serb people."

Throughout the war, the Bosnian Serb army refused to accept control from nationalist political leaders, and looked more to their former Yugoslav National Army colleagues in Serbia for guidance and financial support.

The rift puts the Nato-led peacekeeping force in an awkward position. Since it arrived nearly a year ago, I-For has refused to recognise Gen Mladic's authority because of his indictments for war crimes, but has frequently praised his proxy, Gen Tomic, for his readiness to comply with the Dayton peace agreement.

There is concern among Nato officers that the Serb split could affect the army's discipline.

Advertisement for Adam Sweeting's book 'His songs are riddled with heart-rending evocations of lost love, wasted lives and the bitter encroachments of age, but at least there is a little light relief to be savoured in wacky Anglicisations like "You've got to learn to leave the table when love's no longer being served".' Adam Sweeting on Charles Aznavour

Portrait G2 page 4

سكنا من الامل



# Scandal feeds on Patten's silence

### Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong reports on a mystery resignation and allegations of secrets leaked to China

**I**N A colonial coda worthy of John Le Carré, the Hong Kong governor Chris Patten is struggling to hold a line of secrecy in a murky whodunit featuring allegations of secrets betrayed to China, the Order of the British Empire and a crossbow murder in Canada.

Hong Kong's elected legislature has formed a select committee to investigate and has served notice it may summon the former Conservative Party chairman to testify in a saga that has been gathering momentum since the mysterious departure in July of the colony's director of immigration, Laurence Leung.

"The government has chosen to cover this whole affair in a shroud of secrecy," said Selina Chow, a member of the Legislative Council, which began its investigation on Fri-

day. "We have to find out if this secrecy is justified. The government must be brought to account."

After 31 years in government service, Mr Leung abruptly resigned from the immigration department for unspecified "personal reasons" — the explanation which Mr Patten has used as a barricade against a torrent of rumour and speculation.

"It is the tightest they've been in Government House for a long time," said a veteran official, who estimated that no more than a handful of people in Hong Kong knew the full story.

The immigration department controls some of the most sensitive areas of government in a colony less than eight months away from Chinese rule: the issuing of travel papers and access to confidential files on nationality.

In the final countdown to the handover on July 1 next year, such matters are of concern outside Hong Kong. After his current stop in London, Mr Patten will travel to Paris and Bonn later this week to assure the French and German governments of the integrity of Hong Kong's immigration service and lobby for visa-free access for the territory's residents after 1997.

Mr Leung's "resignation," announced in a terse statement on Saturday, July 6, seems to have taken even Mr Patten by surprise: he had to go back to clear his office. Nor was he given any of the tributes befitting a holder of the OBE.

Adding to what, in the local press and the gossip of government corridors, has become an elaborate web of intrigue is the unsolved murder

of Mr Leung's daughter nearly four years ago. A 22-year-old student at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, she died after being hit by a crossbow bolt as she walked to her car on the institute's campus in January 1993.

Anonymous donors offered a reward of C\$300,000 (£117,150), one of the largest in Canadian history, but the motive and identity of the

killer remain unknown. Some claimed the murder was a contract killing by Chinese triads, but this was never proven.

The government's silence on Mr Leung's resignation had only encouraged rumours, said Elizabeth Wong, a member of the investigating panel. "This whole thing will come out in the wash," she said. "There were vital bits of information mis-

ing. We have been given a very incomplete picture."

Mr Leung broke months of silence last week with a letter to the South China Morning Post declaring a "clear conscience" and denying any wrongdoing: "I can say categorically that all the allegations which appeared in the press recently are unfounded."

Among allegations cited by legislators speaking under parliamentary privilege are

claims, all so far unsubstantiated, that he may have revealed to China the names of civil servants secretly holding British passports and of Chinese dissidents resident in the territory.

China's top official on Hong Kong, Lu Ping, in a highly joined the chorus demanding an explanation for Mr Leung's resignation. Seizing on an opportunity to needle Mr Patten, he complained that Mr Leung had "hastily packed up his things and left in a few hours". China's curiosity quickly died. It has not uttered a public word on the matter since.

Mr Patten, an outspoken champion of open and accountable government, now finds himself in the embarrassing position of being seen to defend secrecy. But there is no sign of any retreat from stonewalling.

"We are going to stick to the script," said Mr Patten's spokesman, Kerry McGlynn. The secretary of the civil service, Lam Woon-kwong, has

### Support for British nationals

**C**HARIS PATTEN, right, is privately supporting growing demands that a solution be found for 5,000 British nationals facing a stateless future under Chinese rule, writes Ian Black, Diplomatic Editor.

Mr Patten yesterday said there had been no change in the government's position. "I last discussed the issue with the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, a

couple of weeks ago, but I didn't get a new or different line on that occasion," he said.

Current plans are that 6,000, mostly of Indian origin, will receive a British National Overseas passport, which does not allow residence in Britain, though they will not be eligible for Chinese citizenship.



Patten's manifesto, page 12

### Jonathan Freedland in Washington reports on a softer line on the controversial Helms-Burton law

## Clinton likely to hold fire on Cuba

**T**HE Clinton administration is likely to delay once again the toughest of its anti-Cuba measures, White House sources said yesterday, as Washington's policy toward the communist regime came under fire from the leaders of Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

Administration officials signalled yesterday that when President Clinton reviews the Helms-Burton law — which punishes overseas companies with trade links to Cuba — he will extend the suspension of Title III, allowing US citizens to sue foreign companies holding property seized during Cuba's 1959 revolution.

Mr Clinton signed Helms-Burton — named after its two Republican sponsors — in March, but in July froze the lawsuits' clause for six months. The waiver comes up for renewal in January.

Officially, Washington is seeking proof that its foreign allies are taking their own action against Havana before it will agree to suspend Title III again. But one national security official told the Guardian yesterday he was "very cautiously optimistic" that the allies had done enough to keep the measure on ice. "We hope that's the direction it's heading in," he said.

The move came as participants at the sixth annual



A Castro supporter brandishes his photograph, taken with the late Chilean president Salvador Allende, at a rally in Santiago PHOTOGRAPH BY JOSE AGUIRRE

Hero-American summit in the Chilean capital, Santiago, jointly condemned the law yesterday. In their first such concerted action, the 23 leaders urged the US to "reconsider the application of the law, which goes against international principles".

Along with Washington's European allies, the Latin American countries have opposed Helms-Burton as "extraterritorial", seeking to impose US law on foreign countries. The European Union is challenging the law

in a newly created court established under the World Trade Organisation. Britain has been particularly vociferous in its opposition.

Washington has appointed Stuart Eizenstat, a former ambassador to the EU and current commerce department official, as a special envoy to placate allies over the Helms-Burton affair. He faces an uphill task: he was pelted with eggs when he arrived in Mexico on his first diplomatic shuttle mission. Several of America's allies

had hoped a re-elected Mr Clinton might soften his stance on Cuba. He had initially opposed Helms-Burton, only agreeing to sign it when Havana sparked a furor by shooting down two planes piloted by Cuban-American activists off the island's coast last February.

Diplomats reckoned Mr Clinton made the move to win over vocal emigré Cuban communities in the electorally crucial states of New Jersey and Florida, both of which he carried last week.

With that pressure removed, some observers hoped he might push Helms-Burton aside and even reconsider the 35-year-old economic embargo on Cuba.

But White House sources warned yesterday that was unlikely, and Washington would maintain its current two-track policy of cutting ties with the Cuban government, while trying to strengthen links with the Cuban people. To that end, the administration hopes to loosen the rules on non-gov-

ernmental, academic, religious and media contacts with Havana — as it did before the February shoot-down.

The first gesture could be the imminent opening of a CNN Havana bureau, announced last week.

The Helms-Burton fuss continues to boost Fidel Castro. At the summit he lashed out at "the criminal blockades by that same power that repeatedly has invaded countries of the region and intervened in the internal affairs of our countries".

### News in brief

## Jordan gives Iraq \$35m helping hand

**J**ORDAN has agreed to supply sanctions-hit Iraq with \$35 million (about £22 million) worth of urgently needed goods, the state news agency Petra said. It said Jordan's trade and industry minister, Ali Abu al-Ragheb, and his Iraqi counterpart, Mohammed Mehdi Saleh, agreed at a meeting on Sunday night for Jordan to export vegetable oil, detergents, soap and fertilizer to Baghdad.

The goods were in addition to a 1996 trade protocol under which Jordan has supplied Baghdad with \$200 million worth of food and medicine exempted from the United Nations' trade sanctions imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Trade ministry officials declined comment on the report yesterday, but Jordanian businessmen say Iraq has been seeking an increase of about \$50 million in next year's protocol with Jordan.

Under the 1996 accord, just over \$200 million was deposited yearly in an escrow account at Jordan's Central Bank to pay Jordanian firms for exports of food and medicine to Iraq. In return, Jordan received about 70,000 barrels of low-priced Iraqi oil per day. — *Reuters, Amman.*

## University closed after riots

**T**HE Zambian government ordered the closure of the country's biggest university yesterday after student riots in which 17 British Airways crew members were injured. Police used teargas and batons to disperse students demonstrating against the blocking of a planned march to the presidential residence in opposition to plans for general elections scheduled for November 27.

A student leader was arrested and several others were slightly injured in the capital, Lusaka, as police dispersed the demonstrators, who had planned to call on President Frederick Chiluba to reopen talks with the opposition, and possibly suspend the election until all parties agreed on rules.

The riot was the second in three days on the campus. On Saturday, 17 BA crew members were injured when students attacked their bus with stones. Police said four were flown to South Africa for specialist treatment. — *Reuters, Lusaka.*

## Spy row before Czech poll

**T**HE acting director of the Czech state intelligence agency, BIS, resigned yesterday amid allegations that it spied on a cabinet minister, raising tensions in the ruling coalition days before key elections.

Ivo Strejcek, a government spokesman, said the prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, had accepted the resignation of Stanislav Devaty, after allegations the BIS spied on the deputy prime minister, Josef Lux, and then tried to cover up its actions.

Mr Devaty, a controversial protégé of Mr Klaus, resigned four days before voting begins in Senate elections, the first test of the centre-right coalition government since it lost its lower house majority six months ago. — *Reuters, Prague.*

## Indian fishermen feared dead

**H**OPES are fading fast for more than 1,300 fishermen missing for five days after a cyclone devastated India's south-east coast, the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh state said yesterday.

If fears prove correct, nearly 2,000 people are likely to have been killed by the rains, 10mph winds and 10ft tidal waves, officials said. "Their fate is not known. All of them could be dead."

Chandrababu Naidu, the chief minister, said of the missing fishermen at a press briefing: "Helicopters which flew over the Bay of Bengal could not locate them," he said. Hundreds of corpses have already washed ashore. — *Reuters, Hyderabad.*

## Chinese revolt on taxes

**I**NFURIATED by heavy fees, demonstrating peasants broke into government buildings and destroyed public property in south China, killing one village leader and injuring many others, a Hong Kong newspaper reported yesterday.

The revolts erupted in Gdong, Hunan province, in September after peasants discovered that city authorities had kept secret for six months a Beijing directive to end excessive taxes, the Oriental Daily News said.

Peasants complained they were ordered to pay excessive fees, and penalised by more than 30 per cent for late payment, the paper said. Farmers reportedly claimed that their homes were raided for valuables to pay off the debts.

Several hundred peasants started the rally in September, holding banners that said: "Down with corrupted officials." The protest led to revolts in neighbouring villages, and a local leader was beaten to death by angry peasants. After subsequent revolts, the authorities gave in. — *AP, Hong Kong.*

## 50,000 flee Afghan fighting

**F**IERCE fighting between the Islamic Taliban militia and their opponents has forced up to 50,000 people to flee their homes in north-west Afghanistan, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday.

"Around 45,000 people from small towns and villages in front-line areas in Badkhis province have fled southwards to the town of Qala-i-Nau," the UNHCR said. "Another 2,000 to 3,000 people have already proceeded further south to Herat. The Taliban captured Egan, the main city in western Afghanistan, in September last year."

Rupert Colville, a UNHCR spokesman, said 115 families, or about 800 people, had arrived in Herat in the last 24 hours. "There are hundreds, if not thousands, of people pouring into Herat," he said, adding that it was the biggest displacement of people in western Afghanistan for many years.

He said a UN convoy of 22 trucks carrying tents, blankets and food had reached Qala-i-Nau, capital of Badkhis province, yesterday and would begin distribution today to about 25,000 people in Qala-i-Nau and other towns. — *Reuters, Islamabad.*

## Crackdown on strike support

**A**NDREW MOLDRUM in Harare

**Z**IMBABWE riot police quashed a peaceful demonstration in central Harare yesterday, arresting union leaders and using teargas and batons to disperse the few hundred people assembled to support the strike by doctors and nurses, now in its third week.

Morgan Tsvangirai and Isaac Matongwe, the top two leaders of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions which had organised the demonstration, were arrested as they arrived to address the group at the Magistrates Court.

The union leaders, who were later released, said they had been detained to prevent them from speaking at the demonstration. Mr Tsvangirai announced that the union would call a two-day general strike starting today.

The union's national organising secretary, James Makore said: "The government has arrested our leaders and brutally broken up a peaceful demonstration. They don't negotiate and they arrest us when we return to work. What else can we do?"

The doctors and nurses are striking in protest at the non-payment of increased allowances, which they had been promised after the civil servants' strike in September.

President Robert Mugabe's government has taken an extremely antagonistic stance: refusing to negotiate, sacking all workers who take part and arresting strike leaders when they go back to work.

Hospitals are effectively closed and a health crisis is looming. Death rates, particularly of small children and the elderly, are rising. Public opinion largely blames the government for not resolving the dispute.

The government published ultimatums in the state-owned newspaper. Headlines announced that all strikers were fired and that expatriates would be hired to replace them. However, salaries for medical staff are well below international standards.

The acting minister of public service, Nathan Shamuyarira, attacked the strike during an appearance on state-owned television on Sunday night. "The organisers are seeking a political objective," he said.

## Third former leader forced to appear in S Korean trial

**I**N A dramatic twist to the appeals of convicted former South Korean presidents Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo, the high court said yesterday it would force a third former head of state to appear.

Choi Kyu-hak, a caretaker president between the assassination of presidential strongman Park Chung-hee in 1979 and Chun's coup, has stubbornly refused to heed previous court orders to show up as a witness.

"Even if he is forced to take the stand, he would not testify," his lawyer said yesterday.

Prosecutors have said Chun forced Mr Choi from office as part of the plot. Chun maintains Mr Choi, who stood down in August 1980, asked him to step in to save the country from unrest.

Chun was sentenced to death in August for mutiny and treason in connection with a 1979 coup and a massacre of demonstrators in 1980. He was also convicted of bribery. Roh was jailed for 22-and-a-half years on similar charges. — *Reuters.*

## Burma tries to play down mob attack on Suu Kyi

**N**ICK CONNING-BRUCE in Bangkok

**A** SENIOR Burmese official sought yesterday to distance the junta from attacks by a mob on the opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's motorcade at the weekend, after the incidents drew strong condemnation from foreign governments, which Rangoon is trying to cultivate. With the prospect of the junta coming under renewed international pressure to change, the official described the Thursday "mob act of sabotage" which the government was investigating. Observers believe the mob was orchestrated by the government.

"If it were set up by the government, why should we pick such an inopportune time when everything was running so smoothly?" the official said, suggesting the attacks might have been staged by Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

This is unlikely, however, as the two attacks happened near each other, and in areas where there was a heavy security presence.



Aung San Suu Kyi. Urged Europe to impose sanctions

the attacks were "unacceptable" and urged the junta to commit itself to a timetable for drafting a new constitution and holding elections.

The US has banned visas for members of the junta and their families, and Congress has passed a bill authorising the president to impose economic sanctions if Ms Suu Kyi is harmed or if the junta steps up pressure on the opposition.

Japan described the incidents as "extremely regrettable" and said it would ask the junta to show restraint in its dealings with Ms Suu Kyi.

The European Parliament was shown yesterday a videotaped appeal by Ms Suu Kyi for economic sanctions. She also warned that public tolerance in Burma was wearing thin and European countries should act before it was too late.

One big concern for the junta is the reaction of Asean (the Association of South-East Asian Nations). Burma is seeking to become a full member next year, but the attacks are likely to add to the unease voiced by Thailand and the Philippines, which are both Asean members.

John McCain, the Republican senator who met the junta's powerful secretary-general, Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt, yesterday, said



Giving the game away

No cheers for Mr Heseltine's cheerleaders

AS a rule, what is said in private is invariably closer to the truth than what is said in public, and this is especially so with politicians. That is why private or secret political documents are almost always more illuminating than published ones.

The documents relate to a series of ministerial meetings chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister in July on improving standards in the public services. The ultimate goal of these Heseltine seminars may indeed have been, as they claim, to improve standards, an aim with which no one could possibly disagree.

The consequences are detailed in the documents published by Mr Prescott. Any sensible person who was confronted with the critical stories about the health service, local schools or the emergency services which were coming from the service providers might stop and listen to them.

time's seminars could not bring themselves to take such a logical and empirical course. Instead, their first decision was to reaffirm the political correctness of their own policies, irrespective of the evidence that those policies were harmful.

Yet the greatest admission is yet to come. "Concepts such as improving efficiency and value for money do not generate public enthusiasm," Mr Heseltine concludes. No one who has worked in the public services could possibly disagree with that.

Mr Heseltine's problem is that this is exactly how most people think of their local services and exactly why they dislike what the Conservatives have done to them. If "your hospital" is not doing any operations for the rest of the financial year, you don't thank the Government; you blame it.

It's still the economy

But Mr Major is out of touch on working hours

WITH its familiar recitation of the Government's economic achievements, the Prime Minister's Guildhall speech last night must have sounded rather unoriginal to many, especially coming from a man facing probable electoral defeat.

The headline-grabbing part of the speech was its sabre-rattling over Europe. Hours before the Government is expected to lose today's European court judgment on working hours, Mr Major threatened once again to deadlock next year's inter-governmental conference unless Britain can be exempted from the social protections which the European Union is now trying to establish as a counterweight to the single market.

again behind a Thatcherite approach which combines hostility to Europe with hostility to social regulation. This will go down well with many Conservatives, but it is out of touch with majority opinion in this country.

Yet, in the longer term, he is surely right to believe that the Conservatives' best chance of winning the election lies in concentrating on the economy. There is method in this choice of priorities. With Labour offering few radical alternatives, as Gordon Brown went out of his way to underline at the CBI yesterday, Mr Major is particularly well placed to command the argument.

Enough is not enough

Distribution is the key to world hunger

THE PARADOX facing the World Food Summit in Rome this week is no less grim for being very familiar. At an aggregate level, the world still has enough to eat. But individual people do not eat around an aggregate table.

A host of non-governmental agencies have issued briefings for Rome; they all make compelling sense. The Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University puts the problem succinctly. Cases of genuine food shortage (after floods in South Asia or civil wars in central Africa) are relatively rare.

world, it is the poor who go hungry" — never the rich. The World Development Movement points out that even in the US an estimated 30 million people suffer from malnutrition. The global food market, dominated by a few giant corporations, makes matters worse.

The Rome conference is already being written off as a "talking shop". In spite of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's efforts, no new money is expected to be generated. Of the G7, only the host country, Italy, is sending a senior figure.



Letters to the Editor

The Lords a-leaping

YOUR article (Blair to scrap Lords reform, November 9) mentions the Salisbury Convention, which states that Conservative peers would not use their in-built majority in the House of Lords to block or defeat measures which are contained in the Labour Party election manifesto.

Where we debated reform of the House of Lords in July, I put a specific question regarding the Salisbury Convention, which was not answered by Lord Strathclyde the Government Chief Whip, when he replied to the debate. I then wrote to Lord Strathclyde asking for an assurance that, if a proposal to abolish the hereditary right to sit and vote was in the Labour Party manifesto and a Bill to put this into effect received the consent of the Commons, the Conservative Opposition in the Lords would undertake not to thwart such a measure.

THE great beauty of the British constitution is that it does not exist. There are conventions for the way we are governed to be followed or adapted, according to the needs of the time.

IF Tony Blair really thinks that deferring the abolition of hereditary peers' voting rights will help him get the rest of his proposed constitutional reforms through the House of Lords, he must have taken complete leave of his senses.

Our depraved censors

THE OBSCENE Publications Act, when allowed to be enacted, seeks to prohibit "that which would tend to deprave and corrupt", presumably the logic being that people who have become depraved and corrupted are now evil, and threats to society.

I AM incandescent with rage that the Daily Mail or Mary Whitehouse should believe they have any right to influence what I may or may not be permitted to watch. On what possible basis do they presume to do so?

WHY DOESN'T VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY BRING REAL CAR CRASHES?



Still hot for British Gas

AS another victim of a British Gas service contract (Letters, November 9), might I suggest that, rather than simply belabouring British Gas, we might draw conclusions for the future.

WHEN there is the danger of mere representations of excessive violence and unacceptable behaviour, the form of Virginia Bottomley, soars into action to prevent them — no anguishing over the definition and application of terms such as "violence" and "unacceptable".

WE can be certain of few things in life these days, but hypocrisy will always remain. Virginia Bottomley does not want us to see David Cronenberg's film, but presumably she will take the party whip in the vote to cane schoolchildren.

French lessons for Mr Major

JOHN Major's remarks in Bordeaux about France and Britain (Major crows over "paralysed" France, November 9) convey a smug sense of superiority. In fact, the majority of the French supported the recent strikes in the public sector, and the fundamental right to strike is something of which the French are proud rather than ashamed.

Election fever

DAVID Denver (Letters, November 7) makes allegations about the BBC's coverage of the US elections that cannot be ignored. The BBC has not relied solely on the US networks for election-night coverage for 12 years. Last Tuesday, we made use of ABC's programme only when we thought it relevant to an international audience.

Branded

SUSPENDING the self-proclaimed "scientific racist" Chris Brand (Lecturer in race row suspended for defending paedophile sex, November 9), Edinburgh University said: "We have no truck with the condoning of paedophile acts which transgress laws designed to protect minors."

A foggy day in London town

YOUR case against introducing charges to the British Museum (Leader, November 9) is based on dubious grounds. One argument you make is that attendances will fall, citing figures for the Victoria and Albert and Natural History museums. However, we have any accurate measure of attendances for these institutions in pre-charge days, and for the British Museum today, and, if so, how are they arrived at?

A Country Diary

CHESTER: The weather during the first few days of November was quite exceptional with clear sky, bright sunshine, temperatures up into the 60s, and this led to some unexpected late records of dragonflies and butterflies. On one day, at the western end of the valley, where the river slows down to a meander, I watched two Common Darter dragonflies phasing each other over a muddy stretch of the embankment as if it was a summer's day.

صحنه من الامم



Diary

John Duncan

THOSE of us alarmed at the late arrival of this month's Labour Party magazine, New Labour, New Britain, can finally relax. The delay in delivery is due to a small, hardly relevant, printing error which the party felt necessitated pulling the whole run (perfectionists that they are).

Get real about job creation in Europe

Commentary

Hugo Young

THE decision to be announced today by the European Court of Justice about the 48-hour week may be largely symbolic.

At one level, this is a technical dispute about the nature of EU law: is it legal for the Commission to impose the 48-hour week directive under the heading of health and safety, thus evading the exemption Britain thought she had secured from such horrors by opting out of the social chapter provisions

at Maastricht? The answer the court will give is almost certainly yes. If that happens, John Major has indicated he will resort to the political arena and a bust-up in Dublin, to which all who lust for blood are keenly looking forward.

This is not the core issue, however. And there are other distractions, deriving from the contention that this limit on working-time, and the apparatus of holiday-laws and rest-time and night-rules that supports it, will apply only to certain workers. It can be claimed by any worker who wants to. It won't affect hospital workers, prison staff, transport workers, people whose work is seasonal, and a host of others. Besides, it is already festooned with limitations, many of them negotiated by Britain long before Maastricht.

The working-time directive has been a very long time in the making. In the meantime, it has become, one might say, another weapon in the ceaseless warfare, and therefore worthy of a presumption in its favour. Today's outcome will be used, in particular, to advance the argument that the European Court has become a politically motivated excuse — a proposition which overlooks how often Britain has invoked it to prevent continued law-breakers from violating

the rules of the single market. The directive has significance beyond itself. If the court decides that working-time can be determined by majority vote (under health and safety), the Commission is poised to extend it to many of the categories now exempted, as would be only logical, given the social attitudes which the EU has stubbornly stood for. Naturally, once judgment is given, British unions are anticipating a Niagara of litigation to curb the hours of workers, especially in the public sector. In the trade-off between social protection for the employed and jobs for the unemployed, unions throughout Europe have never had any doubt where they stand.

The EU's record on job-creation is appalling. It recognises that unemployment is the greatest curse in Europe, yet espouses an ideology against labour flexibility. Between 1970 and 1992, the US economy grew by 70 per cent, the EU's by 81 per cent. Yet employment in the US rose by 49 per cent, the EU figure was 9 per cent. Since 1992, both growth and employment in the US have shot ahead. Yet the EU's 1993 white paper, startlingly, counsels against the American approach because it would require "the implementation, on a large scale, of measures increasing the willingness of

employers to hire workers". This is another way of saying that the employed shall retain the benefits of productivity and the unemployed shall not be priced back into work. For that would produce more inequality of wages, and might require "a reduction in all other costs associated with taking on or maintaining labour, eg social security rules". For all the sillions of words attesting to the EU's concern for unemployment, the social equality and solidarity of continental tradition blunders. By 1995, with the problem even more acute, hand-wringing was still the best the Commission could do. "Efforts to activate employment policies without jeopardising high social protection standards must be stepped up," it blathered into the nuptial void.

Now, it is true that in some industries a 48-hour directive might produce some part-time work to make up for the excess hours being done by full-time employees. But as a regulatory imposition, it is part of a pattern that speaks for a social philosophy which threatens business, and therefore work itself, in a way that Europe cannot afford. This is a brutal thing to say. But the question that has to be asked about every EU initiative, in an era of intensely globalised competition, is whether or not it favours the kind of economic activity that creates jobs.

One person who understands this is Gordon Brown. Speaking to the CBI yesterday, he gave assurances against the potentially anti-competitive features of the social chapter. He reiterated the Labour commitment to training and skills acquisition, those dreary yet indispensable national tools of international survival. He went as close as Labour leader decency could to conceding that the price of labour

is a crucial determinant of its employment. He raised the implicit challenge at the heart of this debate: when society is threatened by breakdown — and alienation fathers a host of social calamities — is there not a case for saying that work, not necessarily protected by every condition developed in a time of full employment, is preferable both socially and individually to the chronic absence of any work at all?

There are interests that will contest this every inch of the way. Some of them are in Brussels. The Commission's continuing refusal to compromise is obliged to gloss over data which suggests the possibility of a link between labour protection and unemployment. Such is the censorious ambition of the social affairs directorate and its terror of ideological challenge. On the 48-hour week, there are disagreements about the extent to which long hours do affect health and safety. Uniformity across the single market can be prayed in aid, by ignoring the self-defeating absurdity of treating Greek and German labour markets as identical. Statistics to this end can be thrown around until the cows come home.

What serious people can't ignore is that the European social model is no longer well-served by rigid employment rules. Solidarity is destroyed more thoroughly by chronic unemployment than by an easing of social protection. This is extremely unpalatable. It is unthinkable 20 years ago. But it is not a Thatcherite plot. It doesn't simplify the work of devising EU social and economic policies, but it provides a basis of reality from which to start. If the Government had started up even a morsel of political capital in Europe, the 48-hour week argument would be one where Britain was the teacher and not the dunce.

Authority on changing life in our schools



John Redwood

There is a worry abroad that there is no longer enough authority. If teachers, governors and councillors cannot cope with one 10-year-old boy and close a school, if 60 pupils are unruly in another, we are entitled to ask why don't more adults have authority?

We live in a world keener to stress rights than duties; to demand more rights, to claim that rights have been infringed, to say that every problem must have a legislative answer. Lobbyists demand the Incompatible. They want more rights and freedoms, but they nearly always want a government answer to every problem.

We have been busy extending rights to children. I am the first to agree that parents should not beat their children senseless. The parent has a duty to the child not to spank them, to feed and clothe them to provide them with a decent home. In return, the child has a duty to obey the parent.

Children cannot have the same rights as adults: they are in their parents' charge. It is a nonsense to imply that they should have adult rights. They are dependent on adults. The idea of a home-school contract puts in the management jargon of the day something that should be automatic. Parents should ensure their children arrive at school on time, fed and rested, ready to learn. Friends, neighbours, relatives should all help. The school should be keen to establish its authority, providing a framework of discipline.

Many support the return of corporal punishment as a symbol that authority is to be re-established; doing this where it has broken down will take more than such a legislative gesture — above all it requires a will to re-establish authority.

Some are fatalistic, saying too many teachers were brought up in the 1960s believing that authority had to be overturned. I was brought up then; my experience taught me that authority needed to be proved it deserved respect, but it did not bring me to believe that all authority should be swept away.

How should teachers re-establish their control? One new word in the debate which contains some hope is *leadership*. A school needs a leader. If a head is determined to rebuild a school he or she can normally do so; the assertion that authority matters can make a difference. Often schools need smartening; teachers should look the part and stand before

the class with the confidence that comes from knowing they have a passion for their subject and a mastery of it worth passing on.

It is no longer conventional wisdom that teachers and schools can succeed in richer parts of the country but have no hope in poorer parts. There is fiscal fatalism. We must beware of the cop-out culture, where no one does anything to help. The theory is that children from poorer homes have no wish to succeed; the absence of books and money at home will make it impossible. Some teachers reinforce this message, letting children believe that they have no hope and letting adults believe that, without much more public money, the enterprise is doomed. This, above all, needs challenge. There is no reason why the son of the unemployed is more likely to fail GCSEs than the son of the banker. If a home lacks books, all the more reason why school and public libraries should have a good supply and encourage a child to use them. If the home lacks a quiet place, all the more reason why school should run a homework club. If the parents have failed through lack of education, all the more incentive for the offspring to succeed.

I can hear my readers tell me I do not understand; some of these children are brought up in a world hostile to learning. Youths in gangs do not think it cool to do homework. Parents do not encourage. The broken family does not see learning as a passport to a better life. I understand; but I think many more parents in inner cities want their children to do well than these blanket denunciations allow. The gangs are also schoolboys, and if there are too many gangs roaming the streets at night, it shows that the local secondary school lacks leadership, as they have not burned off their entry on the soccer pitch or been persuaded that homework is an important path to a job.

Bringing them up with the rod will not solve all these problems. It is going to take more teachers enthusiastic about their subjects, more schools enthusiastic about prospects for their pupils, and more adults accepting their responsibilities. If we went back to the idea that it is better to court, wed, make a home and then have children, more natural authority would be exerted by parents.

It must be difficult for a 13-year-old girl to be a mother and offer a mother's support; maybe we could offer her something better, so that she does not become a mother before she is fully equipped to be one. Self-discipline is the best kind. Sensible authority favours its own replacement by individuals, each of whom has his or her own standards of decency. And respect has to be earned. That is something we as a society have to learn anew.

... Sadly it was a misprint and should have read "dressed" instead of "read". Wales and the regions with the consent of the people". Right on, Tony. Stiff the Jocks, Welch on the Welsh, snip the Celtic fringe... Hadad is currently on tour over here and played the South Bank at the weekend; yesterday she was on her way to Belfast. The Two Humbertos, however, are spending the evening entertaining Heathrow police, having been detained by anti-terrorist officers for rather incoherently trying to get two guns, replicas which fire blanks and are, you understand, part of Sra Hadad's act — into Northern Ireland.

Headed, though, was actually rather sanguine about her treatment by customs. The discovery of the firearms meant they were lenient on her alcohol allowance and the 10 cases of tequila which accompany her everywhere they have got my guns and my boys but they'll never get my tequila," she said. Marriage proposals to the Mexican embassy, please.

THE Diary has never been granted the huge budgets of other so-called newspapers, and though we have offered to pay for top serialisations, up to now the more sordid revelations and filthy exposes have eluded us. Finally, though, we have scooped our rivals. So for the next three days we will be serialising the page three lead story from last Tuesday's Lynn News, for which we have secured world rights. So let's get down to it...

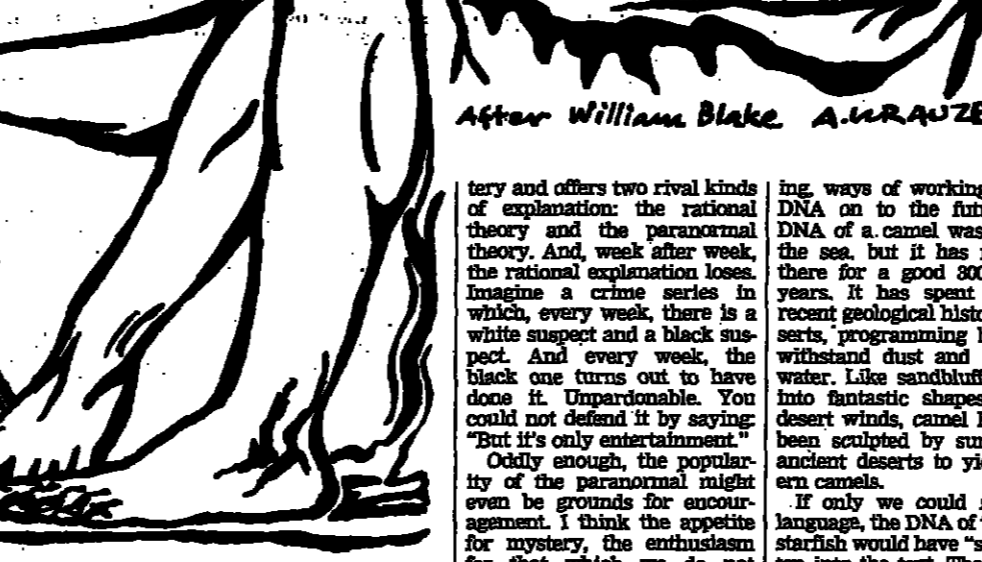
"I quote Nicholas Saville from South Wootton was caught with hundreds of pounds in forged £20 notes stuffed in his underpants..." (To be continued tomorrow)

IT WAS fascinating to read in the Sun that Princess Diana has become a fan of herbal remedies. Indeed, she has become close friends with the Sydney-based herbalist Eileen Whitaker, who is quoted as saying that Diana has "a real understanding of herbs". Well, not that real. Or she would have identified (and doubtless swiftly harvested) the numerous cannabis plants growing in the back garden at Kensington Palace.

UPPER to see gorgeous Peter Mandelson being voted the sexiest politician in Britain in a weekend poll. Described by one woman as "smooth, charming, and sort of twinkly" — a tribute that is impossible to deny — a better home. Surely Mr Mandelson won't be a bachelor for much longer. Understandably the Labour MP for Hartlepool, who has been the subject of personal attacks by certain ill-informed hacks in the past, was suspicious himself when first asked about the accolade, bestowed upon him by the Labour-friendly Express on Sunday. "Is this some kind of anti-Mandelson dig?" he demanded to know. Later, after returning from a Remembrance Sunday service in his Hartlepool constituency, the man dubbed by his few enemies as the Prince of Darkness had mellowed slightly. "I think these polls should be taken with a pinch of salt," he said. "Like perfume, they should be enjoyed but not swallowed. Pardon?"

A hunger for wonder

Why are we flirting with the irrational and the paranormal? Because we have an appetite for mystery, believes Richard Dawkins. Yet true science can feed us better if we will free it from the lab



After William Blake. A. KRAUSE

LAST month I had a letter from a television viewer who politely began: "I am a clarinet teacher whose only memory of science at school was a long period studying the Bunsen burner." Now, if everybody left school thinking you had to play an instrument before you could appreciate music, think how impoverished many lives would be.

Couldn't we treat science in the same way? Yes, we must have Bunsen burners for those drawn to advanced scientific practice. But perhaps the rest of us could have separate classes in science appreciation, the wonder of science, and the history of scientific ideas.

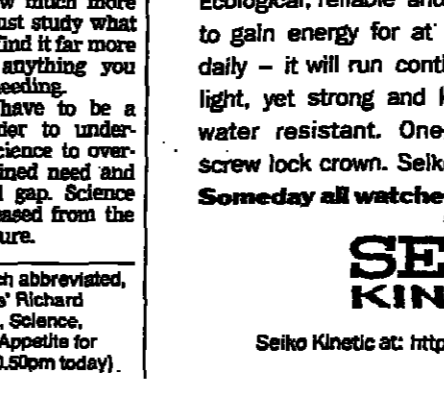
How can I be so sure that this ordinary Englishman with an unlikely foreign accent was not the long-dead Paul of Tarsus? How can I know that the "supernaturalists" are really conjurers, simply because conjurers can duplicate all their acts? It really comes down to economy of explanation. Your car engine might be driven by psychokinetic energy, but if it looks, smells and performs like a petrol engine, the sensible working hypothesis is that it is a petrol engine.

It HAS been suggested that if the supernaturalists really had the powers they claim, they would win the lottery every week. They could also win a Nobel Prize for discovering physical forces hitherto unknown to science. Why do they waste their talents doing party tricks? Let us be open-minded, but not so open-minded that our brains drop out. I'm not saying all such programmes should be suppressed, merely that the audience should be encouraged to be critical.

Let me give a little piece of wonder from my own territory of evolution. You contain a trillion copies of a large, textual document written in a highly accurate, digital code, each copy as voluminous as a substantial book. I am talking of the DNA in your cells.

There ARE going to die, and that makes you lucky ones. Most people are never going to die because they never going to be born. The potential people who could have been standing in my place but who will never see the light of day outnumber the atoms in the universe. We know this because the vast of possible people allowed by our DNA so massively outnumbers the set of actual people. It is you and I that are privileged to be here, with eyes to see where we are and brains to wonder why. There is an appetite for wonder, and isn't true science well qualified to feed it?

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10 OBITUARIES

Lord Sherfield

# Eagle of the Establishment



Sherfield... decisive

**ROGER** Sherfield, who has died aged 92, was a great eagle dominating his environment, an outstanding establishment personality of his day. Among many other prestigious appointments he was ambassador to the United States, chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority and chancellor of Reading University.

I first met Roger Makins, as he then was, in 1950 when he was a deputy under-secretary in the Foreign Office and I (20 years younger) was private secretary to Sir William Strang. Makins seemed a formidable, and to me, somewhat intimidating figure. Very tall, with a slight stoop, much liked and trusted by the Foreign Secretary, Ernest

Bevin, Makins was one of a brilliant triumvirate of deputy under-secretaries under Strang, with Gladwyn Jebb and Harold Caccia. Makins would come dashing down from his room on the first floor to see Strang on the ground floor in that famous north-west corner of the Foreign Office, before leaping up the stairs again to see the Secretary of State, about the latest crisis.

Makins had had a fine academic career. He was a scholar of Winchester and Christ Church, Oxford, and was elected a fellow of All Souls in 1925. He passed Foreign Office examinations in 1928 and quickly became outstanding among a glittering group of young men who entered the service in those years. By the time I first met

him he was already an important and influential senior official, having won the high regard of Harold Macmillan and General Eisenhower during the war and now enjoying the confidence of Bevin.

In 1952, he went as ambassador to the United States and helped no doubt by his close acquaintance with Eisenhower, who had by then become President. He left Washington in 1956 on the eve of the Suez expedition about which (amazingly enough) he had been kept in ignorance. He was then appointed joint permanent secretary of the Treasury where he spent three years and ended his full-time career in government service as chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority (1960-64).

As a government official, Makins was notable both for his intellectual grasp of the essential points of any problem and for his forcefulness and effectiveness in advocating a policy or carrying it out when agreed.

Originally a historian, he held his own with scientists and economists without difficulty. He was quick and decisive in transacting government business, and instinctively seized on the key questions rapidly, thinking out what was the most practical and feasible way of dealing with them. Having mastered a mass of technical detail he would put his recommendations before ministers in a lucid and persuasive form.

He married Alice, daughter of the Honourable Dwight

Davis, in 1934. Makins had inherited a substantial fortune, including a collection of pre-Raphaelite pictures to which he added considerably. Indeed he was something of a grande, keeping up — until quite recently — a sizeable property at Sherfield on London near Basingstoke. He had two sons and three daughters; Alice died in 1985.

Makins was created Lord Sherfield in 1984, one of the last of the hereditary peerages — a "lord of first creation" as he used to explain with his characteristically explosive laugh. At first, I think, he was quite assiduous in attending to his duties in the House of Lords, but latterly less so.

However, he had many other interests after his retirement from full-time government service. He was chairman of the Hill Samuel Group and director of a number of other companies in the City, and served later in his retirement as warden of Winchester College and chairman of the governors of Imperial College, London.

He was also very active socially. His 90th birthday party took the form of a dance and in the same week he attended a dinner in his honour at All Souls, Oxford, before flying off to the US to celebrate further with his friends there. He shot and gardened with skill and energy until quite recently and drove a powerful motorcar.

I remember Roger latterly as a sprightly octogenarian always very up-to-date with political and economic information as well as gossip. He had fortunately found an efficient deaf aid which corrected him for several years. I recall that at a dinner a few years ago he came up to a group of his former juniors in the foreign service (none of us under 70) with the words: "Well, boys, what have you all been up to?" None of us could claim to be doing more than he was himself. After a dinner of this kind he would stride off to the Underground to go home. Not for him the chauffeur-driven limousine.

I do not think that Roger Sherfield published anything by way of memoirs but recently he was writing some kind of record of his experiences and I suppose this may be published in a career course. He had had a career

which involved him in important events and afforded intimate contacts with world leaders.

He himself played a not insignificant part in constructing such institutions as Nato and OECD, which have proved solid bulwarks of the western world. His memoirs, if not too discreet, could be of absorbing interest. He was a powerful and attractive personality.

**Alan Campbell**

Lord Sherfield (Roger Makins), diplomat, born February 3, 1904; died November 9, 1996

Patience Edney

## Great exit for a fighter

**P**ATIENCE Edney, died aged 85 in the winter chosen. She had been celebrating in Spain the lives of those who like herself, were affiliated to the International Brigade which fought for the Republic against General Franco's fascists in the Spanish Civil War 30 years ago. She never changed her view that Communism was the best way of tackling poverty, and devoted herself to assuaging her own relatively privileged background and the suffering she saw as a nurse.

Patience Edney was the daughter of a book publisher from a Quaker family and of a mother descended from sons of the Church and the gentry. Trained at University College Hospital, she worked in midwifery around Woolwich Arsenal and never forgot the poverty and misery she found there: like the mother of seven children who knew she was dying and feared how her children would fare after her death. She was also incensed at the overwork and bad pay to which nurses were subjected out of an annual income of £18, she had to pay two guineas for her exams. At the end of her training she announced she was off to Spain: the hospital authorities told her it was just self-indulgence. Via the Labour-supporting Daily Herald and the liberal News Chronicle, she tracked down a committee sending nurses to the Republicans. She was sent out at two days notice to tend an injured International Brigade leader and stayed on for two years. Tough times: they had to live in caves to escape the bombing.

She was furious when she was returned to this country by order of the British government, but accepted offers to lecture on her experiences to the Women's Institute. She was asked to avoid politics — but worked the subject into her answers to questions.

The London County Council gave her a job investigating conditions in the older London hospitals. Staff who tried to freeze her out, failed to notice the set of her chin and her voice which could, it seemed, cut through steel.



Patience Edney... a life for others

She claimed some successes in improving conditions. She joined the Communist Party in 1939, and it found her a job running the Czech refugee fund health service for refugees pouring into Britain from or through Czechoslovakia. She was outraged when the government seemed about to hand over 35 million of Czech gold held in London to the Nazi invaders and was relieved when a public outcry diverted half the money to the fund.

At the beginning of the second world war, Patience worked for an electronics firm exploring radar. She later worked for the far-left MP John Platts-Mills. In 1983, she married Eric Edney, a Communist Party official and they had one son. She spent some years in China, as a translator and got out, with her child, just before the Cultural Revolution.

Even in her eighties and widowed, her memories remained vividly detailed and

she was unusually deft at dealing with young children and people with problems, who she never patronised. Her eyes glazed over if she was asked if she had revised her political views. She might or might not manage a piercingly crisp, "No!" before changing the subject.

**Dennis Barker**

**Shen Liknaitzky writes:** When Patience Edney returned to Spain she had come full circle since that farewell to the brigades in Barcelona in November 1938. Then she had watched La Pasionaria deliver her address — "You are history, you are legend" — imploring the Brigaders to return "when the olive tree of peace puts forth leaves again." Patience did return, 60 years later, for the first time, like her friends and fellow Brigaders from England, she had come home.

"We were fighting a revolutionary war — it was an

extraordinary feeling," was how she recounted her experiences in Spain to the Journalists and researchers who visited her basement flat by the railway in Camden Town. She cheerfully complained about all the attention — but was always generous. She was a modern woman. She served alongside the men on the committee that ran the affairs of the veteran volunteers, wearing the same black beret.

When young in Spain she had been escorted by Hemingway, who was interested, she said, in English girls. She found him amusing — "he spoke like he wrote — in jerks". But she was not in awe of him.

Among her most poignant memories were those of the cave by the River Ebro where a field hospital had been set up. Because of intense fighting it was a final, ferocious battle, they had to wait for the cover of darkness to bring the wounded in and often it would be too late. She would never

forget two Finnish boys, both badly wounded in the chest. They were in great misery, but nobody could speak Finnish. They took about three days to die. We couldn't talk to them other than by loving to them."

The night before she died, Patience went to the high point of the homage week to the Brigadistas. This was a concert in Madrid's Palace of Sports — the stadium resounding with the cheering, chanting, and singing of thousands of people and — to the delight of at least 400 old Brigaders.

She shared in the extraordinary atmosphere of emotional public adulation. With tears streaming down their faces, the Brigaders were being offered a recognition few of them could ever have dreamed about — making up for decades of official racism and neglect back home.

Patience Edney, nurse and Communist, born August 27, 1911; died November 6, 1996

John Stachniewski

## Giving life to literature

**J**OHAN Stachniewski, who has died of a brain tumour aged 42, was a scholar and literary critic of considerable reputation, whose book *The Persecutory Imagination* will become compulsory reading for anyone seriously interested in 17th-century literature and thought. His published writings are an example of that is best in modern scholarship. Yet John was also at his best organising conferences, such as the one he chaired on the relationship between English in school and universities, or when serving as a Labour Party councillor and as governor of an inner-city primary school.

He was educated at Stamford School in Lincolnshire, before gaining a first-class honours degree and, in 1986, his doctorate at St John's College, Oxford. Since 1978, he taught English at the University of Manchester where he became senior lecturer. John's talent and diligence as a teacher shone out. His fertile mind was coupled with a wit, and an exceptional fluency of expression, which made his delight in literature and ideas infectious.

His researches involved ideas that can terrify and literature that wrestles with despair. He investigated that 17th-century English Calvinism which posited a God who

condemned countless human beings before they had even been born to eternal damnation and the refinement that left them with no decipherable signs through which to discover their fate.

Could such fundamentalism have quickened the intelligence of poets like Shakespeare, Donne and Milton, generating much that makes their literature so potent? Might it have been so widely

disseminated that it infiltrated mainstream popular culture?

John Stachniewski probed these possibilities in a series of elegant essays, in his forthcoming edition of John Bunyan's *Grace Abounding and above all in the magisterial *The Persecutory Imagination*.*

John Stachniewski, scholar and teacher, born October 5, 1953; died September 21, 1996

**English Puritanism and the Literature of Religious Despair.** Reviewers declared it even-handed, yet bold. It is essential reading for early modern literature specialists and yet also a valuable resource for lively inexperienced students.

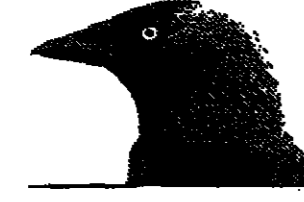
At a time when the university system was threatened by government action and public apathy, John made a crucial contribution in the struggle to maintain academic standards and the decency through which the academy helps to keep society civilised. He was a voice of national importance in the Association of University Teachers, and he was an exemplary member of the council for university English's steering committee.

Earlier this year his Manchester colleagues voted unanimously that he become our next head of department. None of us could have expected that he would face an incurable tumour with such unwavering valour and still focus, with characteristic generosity, on the feelings of others. He is survived by his wife Joanna and two young children, Jeannie and Adam.

**David Pirie**

John Stachniewski, scholar and teacher, born October 5, 1953; died September 21, 1996

Jackdaw



Bare bard

**A**PART from being responsible for encouraging lots of Americans to come over here (at least until the IRA frightens them by letting off another firecracker), one of the charges often levelled at Shakespeare and his plays is that they're just not relevant anymore. But there are universal truths about sex, lust, love and booze in his plays that are common to us all.

Not to mention a lot of fart gags and anti-French jokes to warm the cockles of our hearts. The main problem is that the bard and his works have been chiefly entrusted to blokes who — to put it

plainly — enjoy wearing tight-fitting clothes. But now there's great news for less lavender-scented fans of the rhyming couplet, because the soft porn Fantasy Channel is claiming him back for civilisation.

Many might be inclined to dismiss their Nude Shakespeare season as a wretched excuse to spice up the shagging action — and they'd probably be right — but the great man was partial to a little fifth himself (Only in his day and age they called it ribaldry, of course.) Shakespeare would be fascinated, surely, to see how creatively such dramas as *Measure for Measure*, *As You Like It* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are being "interpreted" by an entirely new set of players. With lines like "To wank or not to wank, that is the question," and "What wind from yonder buttocks breaks?" they could do more for revival in the popularity of Elizabethan verse than Melvyn Bragg and Little Kenny Branagh put together. For those who choose to remain resolutely in the Philistine camp, however, all is not lost:

the plays are followed in the schedule by that other classically-minded crowd-pleaser, *Nude Table Tennis*. A new Shakespeare season of *Bard in the Buff*, reported in *FFIM magazine*.

**Working do**

IT'S 7PM. You open a bottle and down your first glass in two gulps. It tastes rough as hell but you're feeling strangely nervous in your pants-skimming new frock. You're sitting ruminating with the girls about the general lack of talent, why the 16-year-old work experience lad never speaks to anyone and whether the creepy late-night security man on the third floor is a serial killer.

It occurs to you that the 16-year-old work experience lad is actually rather cute, in a spotty, quiet kind of way. You feel suddenly relaxed to tell your supervisor that you don't think she's anyway near as uptight as people make out.

The pants-skimming frock has ridden up quite nicely and your gusset is now in the

realm of public domain. You're telling the 16-year-old work experience lad not to be so shy, as you physically haul him on to your lap.

You study the 16-year-old work experience lad doing the Macarena — you know that this is the man you are going to spend the rest of your life with.

You're surrounded by the people you love best of all in the entire world. You're all going to resign tomorrow and get jobs on cruise liners so you can travel the world together and meet rich men.

You're in a sobbing huddle with the 16-year-old work experience lad, dribbling about Mark, your first boyfriend, the one true love of your life.

You've gone missing. Your friends find you in the Gents. You're resting your head on the black plastic seat, gazing blurrily into the bowl.

You're in a sobbing huddle with the creepy late-night security man, dribbling about the 16-year-old work experience lad — the one true love of your life.

You're dancing to Uptown Girl by Billy Joel (you

requested it) with the girl from the second floor who you really hate. You've never been happier.

It's 2.30am and you're in a taxi home with your mates, but you don't know that it's 11.30am. Creepy late-night security man brings you coffee in bed. You cry.

*Minx magazine follows the dawnfall on all dread at the Christmas party.*

**Some uplift**

**THE ANTI-DEPRESSANT** clomipramine (brand name Anafranil) is giving some users an uplifting bonus when they yawn, they have an orgasm. The Canadian *Journal of Psychiatry*, back in 1986, said that one woman cured of her depression asked if she could continue to use the drug since she enjoyed the side-effects so much. She could even experience an orgasm by deliberately yawning. Another patient, a man, solved the "awkward and embarrassing" problem of repeated and spontaneous climaxes by wearing a condom all day. Ac-

Sid Pye

**S**ID PYE who has died aged 55 was a vocalist, traditional jazz drummer, and fixer. His somewhat eccentric drumming — a mixture of consistent and stickwork beyond comprehension — was modelled on New Orleans percussionist Sammy Penn, and Warren "Baby" Dodds.

Sid Pye grew up in north Wales and Liverpool on a diet of British New Orleans revivalists and he was drummer with Ken Colyer's band for a period in the 1960s. Thereafter he appeared mostly with his own trio.

Sid played for many years in bars in Switzerland. On one occasion at the Montreux jazz festival, headlined by BB King and Lionel Hampton — he persuaded the two stars to join him for a session at the bar where he was playing. Consequently the owner wiped Sid's "slate" clean, and stood drinks all night. It was the best time. Hampton said, he had had since Benny Goodman quartet days.

Despite his often bizarre drumming, Sid Pye possessed a fine press roll — the most prized drumming rudiment in New Orleans jazz — and per-

formed on his period snare drum which had a sparkling, pure tone. Buddy Rich offered an open cheque to acquire it but Sid would never sell it.

Recently he had been cured of cancer and returned five years ago to live and drink in Colwyn Bay, often with his friend, 1960s blues harmonica player Jumping Jack Flash. He leaves his elderly mother and a son.

**CJB Holme**

Sid Pye, drummer, born September 1, 1941; died October 24, 1996

Birthdays

**Nadia Comaneci**, gymnastic champion, 35; Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Conservative MP, 74; Dr William Hayes, 82; Stefanie Powers, actress, 53; Jo Stafford, singer, 78; Sir William Sutherland, former chief constable, Lothian and Borders Police, 63; The Rev Dr Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans, 83; Grovetina Lyon, Professor of Common Law, Keele University, 84; Sir Ronald Millar, play-

wright and political writer, 77; Jennifer Page, chief executive, English Heritage, 52; Stefanie Powers, actress, 53; Jo Stafford, singer, 78; Sir William Sutherland, former chief constable, Lothian and Borders Police, 63; The Rev Dr Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans, 83; Grovetina Lyon, Professor of Common Law, Keele University, 84; Sir Ronald Millar, play-

**Death Notices**

**FELIX** James Williams, passed away November 7th after a short illness at home in Scotland. Any flowers to Marna and David would be gratefully received. Cremation Thursday 14th November, any details from the Funeral Director.

**SHARADAN** John, died peacefully in hospital, on November 8th.

**In Memoriam**

**ALL** WISEMEN: Three years gone, but still I cry, Low Key.

**To place your announcement** telephone 0171 735 0267. Fax 0171 735 4522.

Jackdaw

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Emily Sheffield

**Emily Sheffield**

Some uplift

**THE ANTI-DEPRESSANT** clomipramine (brand name Anafranil) is giving some users an uplifting bonus when they yawn, they have an orgasm. The Canadian *Journal of Psychiatry*, back in 1986, said that one woman cured of her depression asked if she could continue to use the drug since she enjoyed the side-effects so much. She could even experience an orgasm by deliberately yawning. Another patient, a man, solved the "awkward and embarrassing" problem of repeated and spontaneous climaxes by wearing a condom all day. Ac-

Plug and say

**Fing-and-Play** — A new hire who doesn't need any training.

**Under Mouse Arrest** — Getting busted for violating an on-line service's rule of conduct.

**Glazing** — Corporate speak for sleeping with your eyes open. A popular pastime at conferences and early-morning meetings.

**Researching** — Scanning the net, databases, print media, or research papers looking for the mention of your name.

**Greybar Land** — The place you go while you're staring at a computer that's processing something very slowly (while you watch the grey bar creep across the screen).

**Open-Collar Workers** — People who work at home or telecommute.

**Administrative** — The rarest organisational larynx be-

Jackdaw

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
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# Finance Guardian

## Bae given £1bn jet boost

### Australian order safeguards jobs

**Colin Weston and David Fairhall**  
**T**HOUSANDS of jobs at British Aerospace will be safeguarded by a £1 billion order for up to 40 Hawk trainer jet fighters to supply the Australian air force, it emerged yesterday. Negotiations over the contract, which would run to 2006, are based on Bae being the preferred supplier of training aircraft to replace the Royal Australian Air Force's ageing fleet of Macchi jets, the first of which entered service in 1968. Success would ensure that jobs at Warton, Lancashire, and Brough, Humberside, were safe. News of the deal comes at a time of uncertainty about the fate of the £40 billion Eurofighter 2000 project, a collaborative project between Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Bae will cite this latest success for the Hawk, used by 15 air forces worldwide, to argue for the British and other governments to commit themselves to production investment in the Eurofighter project. The Hawk has generated about £12 billion in sales — of which £5 billion went back to the Treasury in taxes and levies — over 20 years, for an original Government investment of £1 billion. Defence Secretary Michael Portillo is publicly committed to signing up for the next phase of the Eurofighter programme. Bae argues for continued public finance support for the Eurofighter on the prospect of recouping the investment from export sales. The German government is, however, facing a budgetary crisis which could delay the start of production. Although German finance minister Theo Waigel appears to be committed to the project, his government has yet to offer any money in next year's budget for pre-production costs. The Australian contract would mean production beginning early next year, with the first squadron of 12 aircraft ready for training pilots by January 2000, and the support contract for spares, engines and training lasting until 2006. City analysts said the timetable would buttress Bae's earnings in the key period between 1998 and 2000, when a lucrative contract to supply Tornado fighter jets to Saudi Arabia would end and before deliveries of the Eurofighter had begun. More than 700 Hawk aircraft have been sold, making it one of the most successful export ventures for Britain's aerospace industry. The two-seat subsonic jet trainer, easily adapted for combat missions, now dominates its market. Further orders are already in prospect, including the politically sensitive sale of an additional 16 aircraft to Indonesia, where opposition politicians claim it is used to attack rebel forces in East Timor. Another large contract of up to 40 aircraft is in prospect for Canada, if Nato gives the go-ahead for a pilot-training school there. The basic trainer aircraft, known as the Hawk 60, was developed for the RAF more than 20 years ago but, to widen its export appeal, it was designed from the outset to be adapted as a light-attack aircraft or fighter. The latest version, designated the Hawk 100, can carry bombs, air-to-air missiles and ground attack missiles. A single-seat, all-weather fighter version, the Hawk 200, is also available, equipped with a 25 mm cannon. As a naval trainer, it was bought by the US Navy, modified and manufactured under licence by McDonnell Douglas.

## Notebook Bank split over a Brown study



Edited by Alex Brummer

**L**ABOUR'S tax and spending plans may still be opaque but Gordon Brown is being far less reticent in portraying himself and his party as inflation hawks. The financial spin doctors, doing their rounds at the CBI in Harrogate, have now — for the first time — spelled out a medium-term inflation target of 2.5 per cent. To keep to this target, Mr Brown proposes to reform the monetary apparatus by replacing the monthly meeting between the Bank of England Governor and the Chancellor with what he and his advisers regard as a more robust framework using a broadly based monetary board. This, Labour believes, will remove the bias under which a Chancellor retains the ultimate freedom to ignore the advice of Governor and press on regardless — as has been the case at least three times since Kenneth Clarke has been at the Exchequer. Moreover, to ensure that this process is in no way corrupted, Labour plans the maximum degree of transparency. Mr Brown's approach is not without problems. First, given his iron commitment to the 2.5 per cent target, it might prove hard on occasions such as when extraneous factors like a higher interest rate enter the equation — to keep to the medium-range inflation target without jeopardising the investment target that also is part of the Labour Party's strategy. Fighting inflation can mean pushing interest rates unacceptably high, as was the case in Germany in 1992-93, when they crushed investment plans — an overhang from which the German economy is still suffering. Secondly, it is not entirely clear that the Bank is wholly comfortable with Labour's plans. The Bank does want more independence and believes that that might eventually come with European monetary union; however, any move to a higher inflation target would be seen as a move away from the present scheme of things is quite satisfactory, Mr George, who is not given to hyperbole, described the results as encouraging and emphasised the elaborate process involved in reaching a policy judgment — not the casual affair that is sometimes portrayed. What the Governor appears to be saying is that if the system works — which the evidence suggests it does — why fix it? Not everyone at the Bank agrees with this. There are some policymakers who find it frustrating that all the Bank's analysis can be jettisoned on the whim of the Chancellor. To this wing of the Bank the more watertight Gordon Brown process might seem greatly attractive. However, there is a potential in the Labour proposal for a diminution in the authority of the Governor, unless by force of experience and performance the incumbent can build a credibility rivaling that of Alan Greenspan at the US Federal Reserve.

### Oil warning

**T**HE first traces of the effects of higher oil prices are evident from the October producer prices data. Much of the increase in the headline rate of output prices — up 0.2 of a point on the month to 2.3 per cent on an annual basis — can be traced back to the upsurge in petroleum costs. Strip these out, as many analysts are wont to do, and it is possible to argue that the underlying trend in producer prices has barely changed for six months. If the argument is extended, the recent rise in base rate to 6 per cent was unnecessary. But, can it ever be wise to ignore trends in the oil price? It is easy to forget that the three most recent bursts of inflation to erupt around the global economy, after the 1973 Yom Kippur war, the Iranian revolution at the end of the 1970s and the Gulf war, were each associated with jumps in the oil price. The present upsurge, which has taken Brent crude prices up 25 per cent since this quarter last year, does not rank in historic terms. But if it is prolonged and/or accommodated in monetary and fiscal terms it could begin to undermine inflation targets not just in the UK — which is being insulated by the petro-currency effects of a stronger pound — but globally. It is too risky to treat as an aberration.

### Hoskyns' choice

**T**HE near 4 per cent bounce in Ensp shares is as much a recognition that the boardroom squabbling which has beset the company is all but over as a reward for a remarkably healthy set of results. The efforts by dissident non-executives Professor Ken Simmonds, of the London Business School, and Joe Cooke (formerly of the Telegraph), to accuse chairman Sir John Hoskyns of bad faith over his attempt to oust them from the board are finding little support. The last thing institutions like it is to see a strongly performing enterprise destabilised by the non-executives' interests. Both non-executives, who have been on the board 28 years between them, have served long enough. A slimmer, restructured board is in the best interests of all stakeholders. However, having won his moral victory, Sir John should consider whether it is time to restructure his own future and start the process of choosing a successor.

## British Steel workers to pay the price for weak demand

### OUTLOOK/Chairman insists prices are on turn, reports Chris Barrie

**J**OB losses and an accelerated programme of cost-cutting were promised at British Steel yesterday as weak demand and low steel prices pushed the privatised group into a 52 per cent slump in first-half profits. Warning that the company was in danger of losing its competitive advantage over European rivals due to the strength of the pound, chairman and chief executive Sir Brian Moffat said there would be "some erosion" of employment at British Steel as it sought to offset the setbacks. Speaking as the company turned in interim profits of £262 million on £3.8 billion turnover, Sir Brian noted that costs were denominated in sterling, with the exception of dollar-denominated materials. To regain BS's advantage of three years ago, the group would dust off plans for restructuring and productivity growth. Although the chairman declined to quantify the job losses, he coupled his remarks with a warning to Labour against raising business costs. Noting shadow chancellor Gordon Brown's pledge at the CBI not to impose new costs through the social chapter, he said: "British Steel, in total contrast to most of our European competitors, has put in 1 million tonnes of extra capacity this year. Most of our competitors, even the biggest, are still exiting businesses which they can no longer afford because of high unemployment costs." Higher costs were a threat to BS and its customers in manufacturing. The remarks highlight BS's strengths and weaknesses since its transformation from a nationalised company dependent on UK manufacturing to today's plc grappling with massive overcapacity in the industry as a whole. BS has cut 500 jobs in six months, taking employment to 83,400. In the early 1980s BS employed close to 200,000 people. Although the company is moving away from commodity products where price pressures are intense, it can only offset adverse exchange rates by raising prices — which it can do only if European competitors raise their prices. With the pound up by 8 per cent against the German mark since early August, the company is in danger of being squeezed. There were more optimistic notes. Sir Brian held out the hope that prices were recovering, having passed the low point of the cycle. With de-stocking coming to an end on the continent, prices structural, flat and stainless steel products were going up. The company has maintained a high level of capacity utilisation, and investment ahead in moving ahead. With £703 million cash in the balance sheet, the group is well placed to fund expansion in steel processing in the Asia-Pacific region, long an ambition of Sir Brian's. Yesterday's statement included news of a £29 million investment in a joint venture in India with Jindal Iron & Steel. Analysts had expected the poor profits but were divided over BS's prospects of making higher prices stick. SGGT said prices had bottomed out. But Nick Judge of NatWest said new capacity in the US and Asia meant the outlook was not encouraging.

## They shall not grow old ...



Futures generation ... The boisterous Liffe exchange in the City of London fell silent for two minutes yesterday as 2,500 traders joined in the renewed national commemoration of Armistice Day. PHOTOGRAPH: RUSSELL BOYCE

Market data table with columns for Shares price, Workforce, and Free-tax profits. Includes a line graph showing trends from 1992 to 1996.

## Lazards fraud case collapses

**D**an Atkinson  
**A** \$4 million fraud trial involving top merchant bank Lazard Brothers has collapsed after new evidence made the Crown's position "untenable". The case, investigated by City of London Police, ground to a halt when Lazards, the victim of the fraud, handed material to public prosecutors on Friday. Full details of the extraordinary collapse have yet to emerge, and Lazards is saying little. But it is understood that the new evidence consisted of material the Crown Prosecution Service had been requesting for some time. The trial of former Lazards junior sales clerk Jacqueline Tomlinson opened at the beginning of last week at Southwark crown court and had been expected to last up to three weeks. But on Friday, it collapsed after the Crown took possession of the fresh evidence for the case. A source indicated the new evidence would form various reasons have made it impossible to proceed with the case against 27-year-old Miss Tomlinson, of Stepney, east London. There is no sign that anyone will now face trial over the alleged defrauding of Lazards of \$4 million in September 1992. Questions are now being asked about the amount of police and public time and money absorbed by the investigation and prosecution, and about the lack of availability of the new material at an earlier stage. Miss Tomlinson had been accused of having helped the Turkish businessman Hussein Coban and others to use the international bank-telegraph system to defraud Lazards. She denied conspiring to defraud the bank. Prosecutor Richard McGregor-Johnson told jurors she had sent out two forged letters to banks in Zurich and Frankfurt, ordering the transfers of \$2.3 million in Swiss francs and £1.9 million in Ger-

man marks to two Turkish bank accounts. These telegrams were transmitted on September 22, 1992, he alleged. The Crown added that by September 25, the money had been shifted into US dollars and moved to a New York bank: \$750,000 had been removed in cash, he said. Mr Coban was said by the Crown to have fled to Turkey from his former home in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. An associate, George Perrett, was arrested at Heathrow carrying \$2 million of the money. Lazards confirmed the trial had stopped on Friday for reasons connected with evidence, but declined to comment further.

## Clarke 'must raise rates' Iron Maiden guru cashes in

**S**arah Ryle  
**B**ANK of England Governor Eddie George insisted yesterday that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke will be forced to raise base rates to guarantee his inflation target. Mr George told an international meeting of central bankers in Basel that Mr Clarke's recent decision to raise base rates to 6 per cent would only limit the size of another increase, needed "at some point" to hit the 2.5 per cent target. Retailers today urged Mr Clarke to leave rates alone after their latest audit of shop prices suggested that the pick-up in consumer spending poses no threat of runaway inflation. The British Retail Consortium says its sales monitor showed the like-for-like value of retail sales increased by 5.9 per cent in October, compared with 5.2 per cent in September. But it said the underlying rate of increase, measured on a less volatile three-month basis, was "steady" at 6.8 per cent. Andrew Higginson, BRC economic affairs committee chairman, said: "Retailers are encouraged by this good performance, but there is no sign of the 1980s-style boom that some commentators are talking up. The Chancellor should not risk damaging improving consumer confidence with any further interest rate rise."

**L**isa Buckingham  
**A**LAN Taylor, the man who discovered and managed Iron Maiden, one of Britain's most successful rock bands, will share in a windfall of 25 million following the flotation next month of Sanctuary Music Productions, a unit of his media company, Sanctuary Group. SMP, which owns top recording studios, is expected to be valued at up to £10 million when it floats on the Alternative Investment Market, and Mr Taylor and his partner, Rod Smallwood, will retain about 60 per cent. The idea behind the flotation is to give pop music impresarios the chance to own equity and to create a company that will be able to retain copyright rather than be forced to see its discoveries poached by one of the music industry's leaders as soon as they make it and need international sales and distribution. The company, formed in 1992, already has joint ventures with record producers and talent scouts who have been linked with hugely successful names such as Duran Duran, the Stranglers, the Pet Shop Boys and Cool and the Gang. Mr Taylor expects to be able to buy out the joint ventures for Sanctuary equity later. Flotation on the AIM is expected to bring about £3 million of additional money, most of which will be used to establish more joint ventures which provide an unusual way for executives, usually rewarded by a straight salary, to share in the financial benefits of their success. SMP is understood to represent less than a fifth of the business of the privately owned Sanctuary Group and Mr Taylor is understood to be keen to use the company to develop a music back catalogue, a financial back-stop for record companies.

## First Choice boardroom coup sees Baron resign

**P**auline Springett  
**F**RANCIS Baron, the fourth-right chief executive of the package holiday group First Choice, unexpectedly decided to resign yesterday, following a boardroom coup. Both sides denied there had been a showdown, but they admitted that a series of recent rows over management style and strategy had hit relations. Mr Baron, who is understood to be in line for a pay-off of about £240,000, said: "It is a pity that these differences could not have been resolved, but there are some battles you can win and some you can't." First Choice's chairman, Michael Julien, said Mr Baron's departure was "in no way a reflection on the group's financial position", adding that booking levels for the new trading year continued to be encouraging. Mr Baron — a strong-willed leader who confessed to having no patience with the "management by committee" approach to leadership — joined the troubled company in 1993 when it was known as Overseas Airways. It has since been restructured and its fortunes have improved. However, earlier this year the company disappointed the City with a downbeat prognosis about the 1996 summer. The analysis responded by downgrading their annual profit forecasts and casting doubt on the company's ability to maintain its dividend. Mr Baron is believed to have favoured maintaining the dividend, but his colleagues have been considering the option of cutting it. First Choice shares closed 1/2p lower at 58 1/2p.



Tourist Rates - Bank Selling table listing rates for various countries including Australia, France, Italy, South Africa, etc.



Brown talks tough in business charm offensive

# Labour announces inflation target

## Price rises 'to be held at 2½pc'

Simon Beavis and Larry Elliott

LABOUR yesterday pledged to keep inflation at below 2.5 per cent in the medium term as the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, went further than before to persuade business that he would deliver economic stability in government.

The pledge was delivered at a CBI conference dominated by inter-party jostling for political advantage centred on Europe, the economy and education and training.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, and the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, had earlier sought to undermine Labour's charm offensive among the business community when they tore into the

party's plans for a windfall tax on the privatised utilities and scoffed at Mr Brown's tough new line on "social Europe".

Mr Heseltine said Labour's plan to hit the utilities with the windfall levy amounted to Danegeld. "And you know the moral of that story. Once you've paid the Danegeld you never get rid of the Dane."

He promised to expose the "intellectual dishonesty and industrial damage" of the tax which he said would affect every consumer of gas, electricity and water and every telephone user.

To the delight of Labour, which has reaped big political returns from the excesses of the privatised companies, Mr

Heseltine denied that £5 billion pounds was nesting in the coffers of the utilities for Labour to grab.

Mr Brown gave no comfort to the CBI, which opposes the windfall levy, warning that it would be introduced as a one-off measure to fund a back-to-work programme for 250,000 young unemployed people.

But he dedicated most of his speech to securing bridges built with business on inflation, Europe, education and infrastructure investment. The party has never spelt out its precise targets on inflation.

"Let me tell you we will not be satisfied with simply talking as tough as the Tories. For, unlike the Government,

we plan to deliver on our inflation target," Mr Brown said.

His aides later confirmed that this would translate into keeping underlying inflation — excluding mortgages — below 2.5 per cent over the medium term.

Although identical to the Government's yardstick, the shadow chancellor said Labour would do better on prices than the Conservatives. "I know, as you know, that inflation undermines business success, it creates instability, it harms investment and the damage it does — as experience of the late 1980s show — takes years to undo," he told delegates.

Labour intends to take in-

terest rate decisions out of the political arena and will in principle be prepared to hand over operational control of monetary policy to an independent Bank of England. But it would make changes to the Bank's decision-making process and then assess its track record before moving to full independence.

Mr Brown said the challenge of the 1990s would be to reform fundamentally "the British welfare state for new times, starting with a programme of moving the young and the long-term unemployed from welfare to work".

He said that one in five non-pensioner households had no one bringing home a wage. "The task is nothing less than

to rebuild the welfare state around the work ethic and opportunity for all."

Labour would offer the young unemployed four options of work or training, "but not the option of staying at home on benefits and doing nothing".

Mr Heseltine gave a glowing assessment of the Government's economic achievements and urged business to recognise that huge opportunities lay ahead if they continued to keep faith with the Conservatives.

Mr Heseltine said that Labour's latest concession to business on the Social Chapter — where Mr Brown promised to use Britain's veto — by saying that Labour could not treat it as an *à la carte* menu.

"The Social Chapter is designed to further the interests of the trade unions. That is why Labour is committed to it," he said.

## Flak flies in No Man's Land

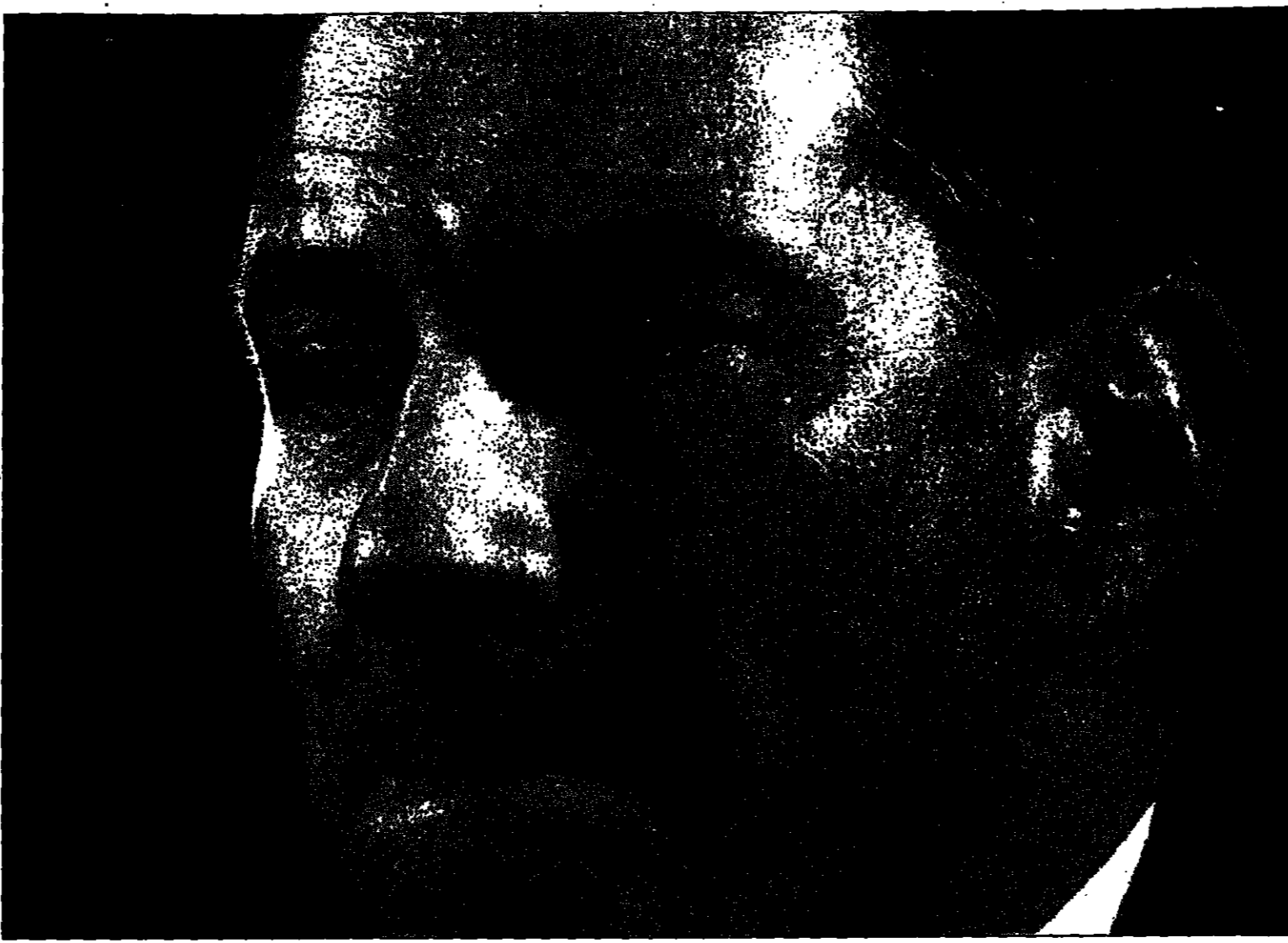
Simon Beavis on brewing poll wars

THE eleventh day of the eleventh month had dawned and the eleventh hour beckoned. But in the conference, and on its frenetic fringes, it was hostilities as usual.

The CBI has made it clear that in this particular conflict it wants to play Switzerland.

It has decided to remain neutral in the run-up to the election, in the vain hope that it will steer clear of the political trench warfare that is this country's unpleasant prospect for the next six months.

The conference hall is decked out with the most sophisticated accoutrements of neutrality. CBI leaders have on the traditional dark grey suits but yesterday they were sporting ties of a more strident red. All in vain. The employers' organisation has found itself holed up in no-man's-land with the bullets whizzing past its ears. Politicians want their warring ties of a more strident red. And the CBI also clearly likes playing a bit



On guard... Tight-lipped Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, at the CBI conference at Harrogate yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY DON MCFEE

fast and loose, while giving the impression of wanting to be anywhere but stuck in this mire. Who are they to deny the politicians the battle ground they love so much?

Agents of New Labour were parachuted in early on Sunday. They were lightly armed with briefing documents and a bit of swagger, born of the growing belief that if Switzerland were to join in it

would probably be on their side. Then the heavy battalions rolled in. And the top brass, Defence Secretary Michael Portillo was on hand at breakfast to knock down the speech which Gordon Brown was to make later in the day.

Then came Michael Heseltine, with his list of titles rattling like a hail of medals. He tried every device to hit the rhetorical

heights. He exalted the wonders worked on the British economy in the last 17 years — and repeated veiled pleas for business to recognise that none of this could have been achieved without them or, more importantly, the Government.

It spurted out as if from a well-greased Gatling gun — very quickly and occasionally tripping over itself. His hair was chaotic, falling down over the half moons

as of old. Some of the force had gone — but he lunged at Labour's windfall tax. He likened it to Danegeld — a levy which, as Mr Heseltine seemed to forget, ushered in years and years of Viking rule.

Just before 11 o'clock, CBI leaders checked their watches in readiness for the two-minute silence. When it came it was as poignant a tribute as ever, made all the more powerful

by a film projected on two giant screens of a field of poppies wafting silently in the breeze. It was a moment of dignity. The quiet was palpable.

But with the CBI there is usually a bit of bathos as well. It came when the lights went up and Sir Colin Marshall, the CBI president, announced: "And now it's time for our coffee break, sponsored by Kall Kwik UK plc."

## Row as Monks puts unity plea

Richard Thomas Economics Correspondent

A PLEA from John Monks, the general secretary of the TUC, for a new partnership between unions and employers ran into immediate trouble yesterday when business leaders launched an attack on his support for a minimum wage.

Calling for an end to an "adversarial" approach to employee relations, Mr Monks — the first head of the Trades Union Congress to address a CBI conference — invited bosses to join workers in pushing a new seven-point charter of demands on the next government.

"There are issues on which we disagree but would not a common approach from the CBI and TUC produce a positive response from whoever forms the next government?" However, the head of the CBI's London Region, Anthony Fuller, of the Fuller's brewing group, told Mr Monks a wage floor of £4 an hour would result in either an extra 10p on a pint in his south-east pubs or substantial job shedding.

Mr Monks recognised that the social chapter and minimum wage remained contentious in Britain's boardrooms, but argued that reduced employment legislation was fueling job insecurity and damaging productivity.

He said the TUC and CBI were already working hand in hand on a range of issues, including training, health and safety and the future of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.



Monks: under fire over his support for minimum wage

confirmed that the two men had struck up a fruitful working relationship.

He urged a new coalition based on sound macro-economic policy; a recognition of the growing competitive challenge; an acknowledgement that Britain must be an integral part of Europe; priority for education and training; rejection of efforts to tear up the Training and Enterprise Councils; support for a strong transport infrastructure; and a vision based on technology.

Although Mr Monks was critical of firms for derogating using trade unions and said that the TUC still faced a struggle against discriminatory legislation, he said workers and bosses had to overcome a history of hostility.

## Politicians show that they know who is boss now

Speeches have become serious business, says LARRY ELLIOTT

UNTIL recently the conference season was easily defined. The TUC provided the overture to the seaside sojourns of the three main parties, with the CBI bringing up the rear after the clocks went back. Not so much a coda as an afterthought.

Now, where once politicians gave a perfunctory address to the annual gathering of bosses, they treat the occasion deadly seriously. The party speech is the time for a bit of gratuitous knockabout; that to the CBI is worth time and effort.

The reason for this change is that the business agenda now defines the political mainstream. The concerns of business and politicians are keen — even desperate — to secure the imprimatur of the pace-setters in the boardroom. Consensus politics is not new. All parties subscribed to the interventionist Butskellite agenda in the 1950s and 1960s; the difference then was that the consensus was slightly to the left of centre, whereas now it is slightly to the right.

Of course, there are differences in the success of our enterprises, in wealth creation and in a country whose products and services can compete with the best in the market. Despite misgivings in the audience, CBI officials said Mr Turner would respond positively to the TUC olive branch, and some delegates welcomed his initiative.

terday was complete without a mention of education, just as any speech in the Wilson-Heath era required a nod to full employment.

And yet a day spent listening to the cream of British business was enough to raise serious doubts about whether the economy's future should be handed over to these people. Invited to put questions to Mr Brown after his speech, the man from Fuller's brewery asked about beer excise duties, the industrialist from the West Midlands asked whether Labour would reverse the Government's decision and site the millennium exhibition at Birmingham's NEC. Very visionary, very perceptive.

Admittedly, Adair Turner, the CBI's director-general, is a smart chap — a lot smarter than most of his members, on yesterday's showing. He is, as a former management consul-

## Man from brewery asked about beer excise duties, West Midlands industrialist queried millennium site

tant, the perfect person to be dictating the terms of the new consensus, offering technocratic solutions to a series of micro problems.

But the preoccupation with the supply side does mean that the demand side of the equation is entirely ignored. There is no hint that supply-side change might be helped or hindered by what is happening to the macro-economy, with the blithe assumption that all the politicians need to do is deliver stability and the rest will automatically follow.

All yesterday lacked was the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, to come along with a warning that vigilance was needed to prevent inflation from becoming a problem once again. Delegates need not worry; this omission will be remedied today.

It will take time to assess whether the new consensus is any better at ending Britain's century of relative decline than the old Keynesians who ran the economy for the 30 years after the war.

But what was evident yesterday was that Labour is taken far more seriously by business than it has been for 20 years. At the CBI conference in 1996, the atmosphere was anti-Labour in the run-up to the election that Labour's industry spokesman, the late John Smith, was confined to the very fringes of the conference and virtually ignored by the CBI's top brass. Nowadays, Labour politicians are given the same red-carpet treatment as Cabinet ministers. This should come as no surprise, not just because the Opposition has a commanding poll lead but because the Government seems so exhausted after 17 years in power.

It was telling yesterday that the three best political speeches came from men on the outside looking in — Leon Brittan, Chris Patten and Gordon Brown. By contrast, even Michael Heseltine's soundbites had a stale feel about them.

## Brittan tries to demolish Eurosceptic 'mythology'

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

SIR Leon Brittan yesterday threatened to shatter the Government's fragile pre-election truce on Europe with an attack on Conservative Eurosceptics and a rallying cry for monetary union.

Putting the case for a more positive approach to a single currency, the vice-president of the European Commission said that EMU would mean lower interest rates and an end to currency instability.

He attacked the Tory right for spreading myths about Brussels, and stressed that it was spearheading the fight for free trade.

"Europe's single currency will be stronger than national currencies, if it is created on the right terms. The pay-off of this for business will be lower interest rates and lower inflation."

Sir Leon also rejected reports that monetary union would not happen by the end of the century. The prospect of EMU was forcing governments to cut their budget deficits. "And don't believe that it is being done by statistical fiddling. Real action is being taken."

## Patten lays out personal manifesto

Richard Thomas Economics Correspondent

CHRIS Patten, former chairman of the Conservative Party, yesterday sketched out his personal manifesto for a re-entry to British politics, based on a renewed push for global free trade, European cohesion and deep cuts in welfare spending.

Hinting at ambitions to lead the Tory party, Mr Patten bolstered his credentials with the right by insisting that only lower state spending and taxes could allow the UK to compete with the tiger economies of the Far East — before reiterating his strongly pro-European views.

The current governor of Hong Kong said he was maintaining "compulsory radio silence" in his diplomatic role and denied that his recent appearance on Radio 4's Desert Island Discs was part of a charm offensive in advance of his return to the UK next year. But he did little to dampen speculation about his future intentions.

Asked if he would be interested in the leadership of the Conservative Party — if the job was available and he was an MP — Mr Patten said: "This is completely a hypothetical question. But if you were to ask me whether, if my backhand was better and if I got more of my first serves in, would I want to play at Wimbledon, my answer would be yes."

Speaking at the Confederation of British Industry annual conference in Harrogate, he condemned "billionaire protectionists" such as Sir James Goldsmith for acting against the interests of Western firms and consumers. "It is protectionism, not free trade, which leads to beggar-my-neighbour economics," he said.

Instead of attempting to block imports from Asia, Mr Patten said the UK needed to emulate the entrepreneurial spirit, lean government machines and commitment to education in the East. "It is extremely difficult to see how we can increase growth and reduce unemployment without reducing regulation, public spending and taxes."

Mr Patten denied a wholesale conversion to "slash and burn" economics. "I am not calling for a return to workhouse welfare."

He said the can-do culture of Asian countries was in stark contrast to the British tendency to take potshots at people with ideas and punish success through the tax system. "There is no premium on whingeing in Asia, where people have more reason to complain. We have a habit of confusing envy with fiscal policy," he said.

Mr Patten said that 20 years of structural reforms to the domestic economy had improved Britain's standing on the world stage, with Asian investors and exporters seeing the UK as a bridge to Europe.

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Racing

Dobbin misses Murphy's to partner The Grey Monk in Hennessy warm-up. Ken Oliver reports

Richards aiming at golden double

GORDON RICHARDS looks certain to play a leading hand in most of the big chases this season and the Greystoke trainer's horses feature in nearly every Ten To Follow list. One Man is the stable star but much is expected of Addington Boy and The Grey Monk...



Tail end of the Turf... Horse and stable staff turn their backs on the 1996 Flat racing season which ended at Folkestone yesterday

order and he should run well. All the market leaders stood their ground at yesterday's five-day declaration stage for the Cheltenham chase.

Cheltenham she would have it all to do. She needs to get her jumping more together and I think she will probably go for an easier race before the King George VI Chase.

The turf flat season closed at Folkestone yesterday, but Pat Eddery, who has landed his 11th jockeys' title with 186 victories, was absent from the Kent track.

trainers' list in the juvenile department. The Marlborough man recorded his 59th two-year-old winner when Salty Behaviour battled back to beat Sous Le Nez by a head in the Doug Wood Stakes.

David Harrison had the final say in the closing Doncaster Macklin Handicap on 20-1 shot Touka but earned a two-day suspension (November 22 and 23) for careless riding.

Sedgefield with guide to recent form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 1.20 Jockey, 1.50 Contravert, 1.50 Thunderstruck). Includes race times and results.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 2.50 Jockey, 2.50 Contravert, 2.50 Thunderstruck). Includes race times and results.

Lingfield (A.W. Flat)

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 1.00 Jockey, 1.00 Contravert, 1.00 Thunderstruck). Includes race times and results.

London Marathon is trial for Athens

THE British Athletic Federation has bowed to pressure from the country's leading athletes and made the 1997 London Marathon an official trial for the Athens Olympic Games.

Redgrave in Hall of Fame

STEVE REDGRAVE and his Olympic gold-medal partner Matthew Pinsent are the first rowers to be admitted to the sport's Hall of Fame to be opened in Henley in 1998.

Westwood climbs rankings

ENGLAND'S Lee Westwood, who finished sixth in this season's European golf rankings, has moved to a career-best world placing of 64.

Lucking's luck is in

ANDREW LUCKING, a 6ft 6in Yorkshire lock who plays for the Scottish side Currie, has been included in England A's 40-man squad for tomorrow's training session alongside the senior squad.

Manager's job for Bates

JEREMY BATES, the former British No. 1, is to take over from David Felgate as manager of men's national training for the Lawn Tennis Association.

Hat-trick draw for Southgate

SOUTHGATE and East Grinstead, contenders for the National League hockey title, have been drawn to play each other in the HA Cup for the third time in recent seasons.

Ludlow

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 1.10 Jockey, 1.40 Contravert, 1.40 Thunderstruck). Includes race times and results.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race name and results (e.g., FOLKESTONE, WOLVERHAMPTON, CARLISLE). Lists winners and other participants.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race name and results (e.g., 1.20 Jockey, 1.50 Contravert, 1.50 Thunderstruck). Lists winners and other participants.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race name and results (e.g., 1.00 Jockey, 1.00 Contravert, 1.00 Thunderstruck). Lists winners and other participants.

Hero beaten

DECORATED HERO, drained by John Gosden and ridden by Frankie Dettori, finished second to River Bay in the group three Prix Perth (1m) at Saint-CLOUD yesterday.

RACELINE logo and text: SEDGFIELD 101, LUDLOW 102, LINGFIELD 103

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race name and results (e.g., FOLKESTONE, WOLVERHAMPTON, CARLISLE). Lists winners and other participants.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race name and results (e.g., 1.20 Jockey, 1.50 Contravert, 1.50 Thunderstruck). Lists winners and other participants.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race name and results (e.g., 1.00 Jockey, 1.00 Contravert, 1.00 Thunderstruck). Lists winners and other participants.



14 SPORTS NEWS

Soccer

Australia target Venables

THE former England coach Terry Venables has been approached to coach another national side: Australia. Sources close to him have confirmed that the governing body Soccer Australia made contact about two weeks ago and that Venables is expected to hear from them again to discuss the job's precise parameters and terms. The position would not require him to move to Australia but to monitor those international-class Australian players among the 150 performing around the world. Another coach would be based in Australia. The job would fit snugly into Venables's requirements: well-paid, influential, challenging but not requiring him to move from his London base. The sources confirmed that Venables is no longer inter-

New verdict on Collymore today

SECOND time in less than a week, he faces the prospect of another large fine. The list of prospective Blackburn managers expanded yesterday to accommodate Sven Goran Eriksson, Swedish coach of the Italian club Sampdoria. Eriksson let it be known he would like to be considered for the post vacated last month by Ray Harford's resignation. The Rovers directors are expected to discuss who should succeed Harford with the club's benefactor Jack Walker in the next 24 hours. Ideally Blackburn would like to have a new manager in place before Saturday's Premiership meeting with Chelsea at Wood Park. Blackburn's provisional short-list includes Howard Kendall, manager of Sheffield United, the former England coach Terry Venables and Bruce Rioch, QPR's assistant manager. However, Rangers yesterday vehemently denied that Rioch had travelled north at the weekend to be interviewed by Blackburn officials. "We can categorically state that Bruce was out of the country on scouting duties while we were playing at Crystal Palace on Sunday," a QPR spokesman said.

Osman back with Cardiff

RUSSELL OSMAN, the former England defender, returned to management yesterday when he took charge of Cardiff City. Osman, 37, made 15 League appearances for Cardiff last season and will play in the Third Division side now in an emergency. The former Bristol City player-manager succeeds Phil

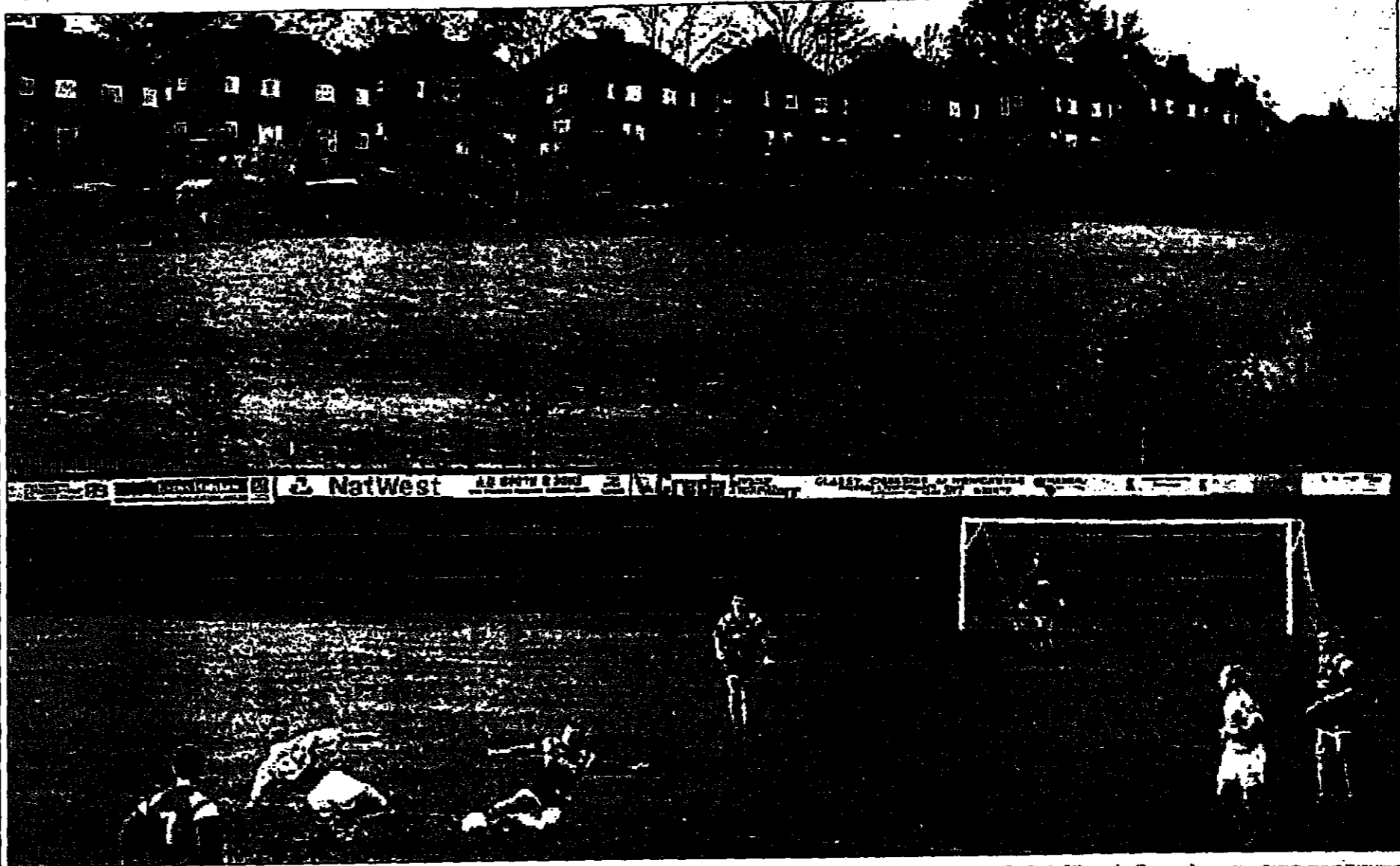
Pools Forecast

Table with 2 columns: Team and Odds. Includes sections for FA Caring Premiership, National League, First Division, and FA Cup.

Team talk

Table with 3 columns: Team, Opponent, and Score. Lists various football teams and their upcoming fixtures.

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Town centre... Newcastle's Lyme Valley stadium is flooded, covered on two sides and seats 300 but Sunday's tie takes place at Stoke's Victoria Ground

A Newcastle under no illusions

FA CUP PROFILE: Stephen Bierley visits the North West Counties side facing a tricky tie against Notts County on Sunday

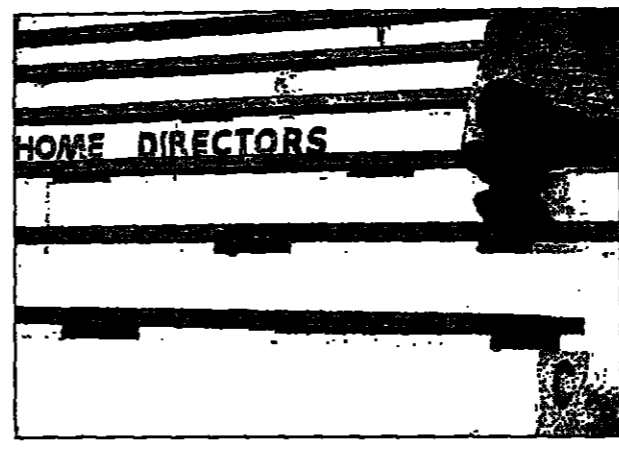
AS THE Midland sunsets slowly cleared yesterday morning the late autumn sun glinted on the medals of a Newcastle under Lyme pensioner as he stepped stiffly down the road to observe the two-minute silence at the 11th hour of the 11th day. In the centre of town, with the market stalls doing brisk pre-Christmas business, another old man regaled his newswatch with memories of violence of a closer hour. "I'd just drawn my pension when this young lad walks up and says 'thanks very much. He just matched the money and ran off. I couldn't do nothing.' This is Middle England on a Monday. 'It's wicked, me ducks,' replied the newswatch agent, wrestling arthritic fingers with an awkward lull. "And they've got as much chance of catching him as Town have of winning the Cup." The local police were not available to comment on such a comparison of odds but it seems safe to assume that, if a Newcastle gets to Wembley next May, it will not be the Staffordshire variety. Newcastle under Lyme stands on the lip of the Potteries; live here and you might support Stoke City, Port Vale or Cheshire's Crewe Alexandra. Everyone connected with Newcastle Town of the North West Counties Division One hopes that supporters of these

three League clubs will stand shoulder to shoulder at the Victoria Ground, Stoke, on Sunday and cheer them on against Notts County. This is not a club with a huge history. Ten years ago it was in danger of going under more than Lyme until a merger with a Sunday side, Parkway Clayton. Since then the improvement has been steady, with eyes now turned towards the Unibond League - the old Northern League. Town would have loved to have played Notts County in the Lyme Valley stadium, which is flooded, covered on two sides and seats just under 300. They need a 6,000 crowd at Stoke to make the switch financially viable. One hopes they get it and more, even if

such ground barter bites another great gobbit out of a competition whose glamour, at least at this stage, is mere veneer. So far Newcastle Town have seen off three Unibond Premier sides, Winsford, Frickley and Bamber Bridge - a sequence of victories that has left their manager Glyn Chamberlain singularly unbothered. "I think 70 per cent of my squad are capable of playing at that level." Chamberlain, who traded his defensive league wares for Burnley, Chesterfield and Halifax Town, became manager three years ago and has knitted together the usual non-league jumble of former pros and gifted part-timers. As a member of the Burnley ground staff he saw the Lancashire club, still a force in the land, beaten by Wimbledon, then of the Southern League, and was with Ches-



Newcastle united... Town's manager Glyn Chamberlain: room to manoeuvre in the main stand on match day; the striker John Burdred enjoys Saturday's match against Darwin



Mark Tran in New York and the Cowboys. Although they are somewhat flattered by a 7-3 record, like Dallas they will still have to lift their game in order to stay ahead of the Packers, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Denver Broncos.

Pressure piles on Lee as City debt hits £26m

THE pressure on Francis Lee, confronted by continual takeover talk and the sudden resignation of Steve Coppell as manager, increased yesterday when it was revealed that Manchester City lost more than £2.1 million last season and that debts have soared to £26 million. Shareholders will hear at the annual general meeting on December 5 that the £2.1 million loss in the season City lost their Premiership status compares with a £203,759 profit the previous year. The Maine Road debts of £26 million, up £7 million from 12 months previously, compare with total assets of £31 million. Interest charges have virtually doubled, rising from £564,000 to £1.3 million. But Lee, City's chairman, says: "Every club in the game, apart from two or three, reports losses. What the balance sheet never takes on board is the value of players." Despite the deficit, he insisted that City have no plans to sell their main player asset, the midfielder Georgi Kinkladze. The gulf between the two Manchester clubs was emphasised with the news that United's chairman and chief executive, Martin Edwards has received a 39 per cent pay rise, taking his basic salary to £212,000. Edwards also received a £67,000 performance-related bonus after United's Double season. With other perks, his total package is believed to be £321,000.

Results

Table of sports results including Soccer, American Football, Tennis, Ice Hockey, and Basketball.

American Football

Table of American Football results and fixtures, including teams like Dallas Cowboys and Denver Broncos.

Heartbreak for 49ers as Elvis gives game away

AN awful blunder by Elvis Grbac, the 49ers' usually reliable reserve quarterback, handed victory to the Dallas Cowboys as their live game, two more victories and a draw against Newcastle United would make a satellite dish too tasty to refuse. But first those other Magpies, Notts County, have to be overcome. In truth it seems likely that Colin Murphy's team will make it one for sorrow.

Handwritten Arabic text: صكنا من الامل



Cricket

Tour match: South Australia v England A

Headley makes his own name

Andy Wilson in Adelaide

DEAN HEADLEY is desperate to play for England. After the success of his father and grandfather...

catch had not carried. However, the fiercely competitive nature of the game in the middle was undermined by the absence from the South Australian side of Darren Lehmann...

Headley bowled England A to a remarkable victory almost single-handedly taking five for 38 in the second innings to complete career-best match figures of 11 for 98 as South Australia, chasing a target of 170, were beaten by 12 runs...

He bowled Gillespie with a yorker and had McIntyre lbw next ball, giving himself a chance of his fourth hat-trick of 1996 following three this summer for Kent...



Tennis

Ominous for Seles as Hingis humbles her in runaway win

Stephen Bierley on the unexpected demise of a formidable champion and the imminent arrival of another

THE RISE and rise of Martina Hingis, still only 16 years old, coincided significantly with the decline of Monica Seles...

on court, occasionally throwing both tantrums and racket, but her ability far outweighs such, as yet, minor blemishes. Seles, once a teenage prodigy herself, makes most of her money from doubles and clearly Hingis's singles success has caused her to limit her energies...

Price of fame... Seles feels the strain. DARRIN BRABROOK

In with a shout... Hingis sounds off during the Australian Open. PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS COLE

Lloyd joins call for Test 'table'

Mike Selvey

CLIVE LLOYD, manager of the West Indies team currently touring Australia, has joined those who believe that a World Championship of Test cricket is fundamental to the credibility of the five-day game...

agree that such competition could help increase the appeal of Test cricket, the logistics of the nine Test countries playing each other home and away in series of differing lengths in, say, a four-year period might prove difficult...

Motor Racing Sauber jump the flag on Ferrari engine deal

Alan Henry

WAR of words broke out last night between Sauber and Ferrari over claims by the Swiss-based team that Ferrari had agreed to supply them with V10 engines for the next two world championship campaigns...

"We have been discussing a possible collaboration with Sauber in a deep way which has not been written and this [Sauber] press release could compromise any further development of the possible deal."

Michael Schumacher's present contract - until the end of 1999 - would represent a step towards regaining the rivalry...

covering their costs through their major sponsor Petronas, the Malaysian fuel conglomerate, whose name would be displayed on the can covers of the engines.

Rugby Union Club move helps heal divisions

Ian Madin

ENGLAND's leading clubs held out for a series of matches against touring teams during the next month. The English Professional Rugby Union Clubs organisation, which has been in dispute with the Rugby Football Union for a year, had threatened last month to prevent players from representing their divisions against the touring teams of Queensland, Argentina and South Africa A...

Rugby League Ireland see danger in Tuigamala

IRELAND's coach Murray Kidd has singled out the former All Black wing Va'ala Tuigamala, a man Will Carling once compared to a runaway chariot, as the threat to his side in Dublin tonight...

Rugby League Wigan win race to sign Murray

Paul Fitzpatrick

WIGAN have resisted competition from a number of clubs, notably Salford Reds, to sign the 21-year-old Auckland Warriors full-back David Murray, who has been named as the Western Samoa line-up for the international at Lansdowne Road...

Ice Hockey Sunday's foes unite for GB in Olympic bid

Victor Batchelder

PETER WOODS, Great Britain's Canadian coach, put his finger on the spot: "I would love a situation where we could close down the fixtures for the weekend, even just the Sunday evening before such a vital game. Tonight Britain play an Olympic Group A qualifying game against Slovenia at Sheffield. Unbeaten in their five tournament games so far they defeated Slovenia 5-1 in Ljubljana last January. A repeat of that success, and victories over the Netherlands (away) and Switzerland (at Sheffield) next month, will ensure progression to a seven-nation final qualification tournament in Austria and Germany next February from which the top five will go to the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano. The coach's plea was all the more understandable after Sunday night's stormy Superleague encounter at Sheffield between the Steelers and Woods' own club, the Basingstoke Bison. Steelers won 7-1 after three players from each side had been ejected for fighting, and both team-minders who fought at centre ice, although Sheffield's Tom Plommer was the only one of eight GB squad members to be dismissed. As the national squad assembled at Sheffield yesterday, Woods said: Sheffield and Basingstoke tried to knock the crap out of each other. Then next day we're in the same dressing room. "I don't anticipate problems, though there is to be a cooling-off period and there'll be some minor tension. That has to be dealt with right away, we have to make sure everyone is focused on the task in hand. Slovenia are skilled and physical and for a lot of our players this'll be the third game in four nights." Woods envied his soccer counterpart Glenn Hoddle, who had the England squad together for a week before last Saturday's World Cup game in Georgia. Ice hockey might consider doing the same, he said. "In a perfect world that's what it would be all about and I don't think that's unrealistic to ask. But, if you look at our programme now compared to a couple of years ago, we're progressing."

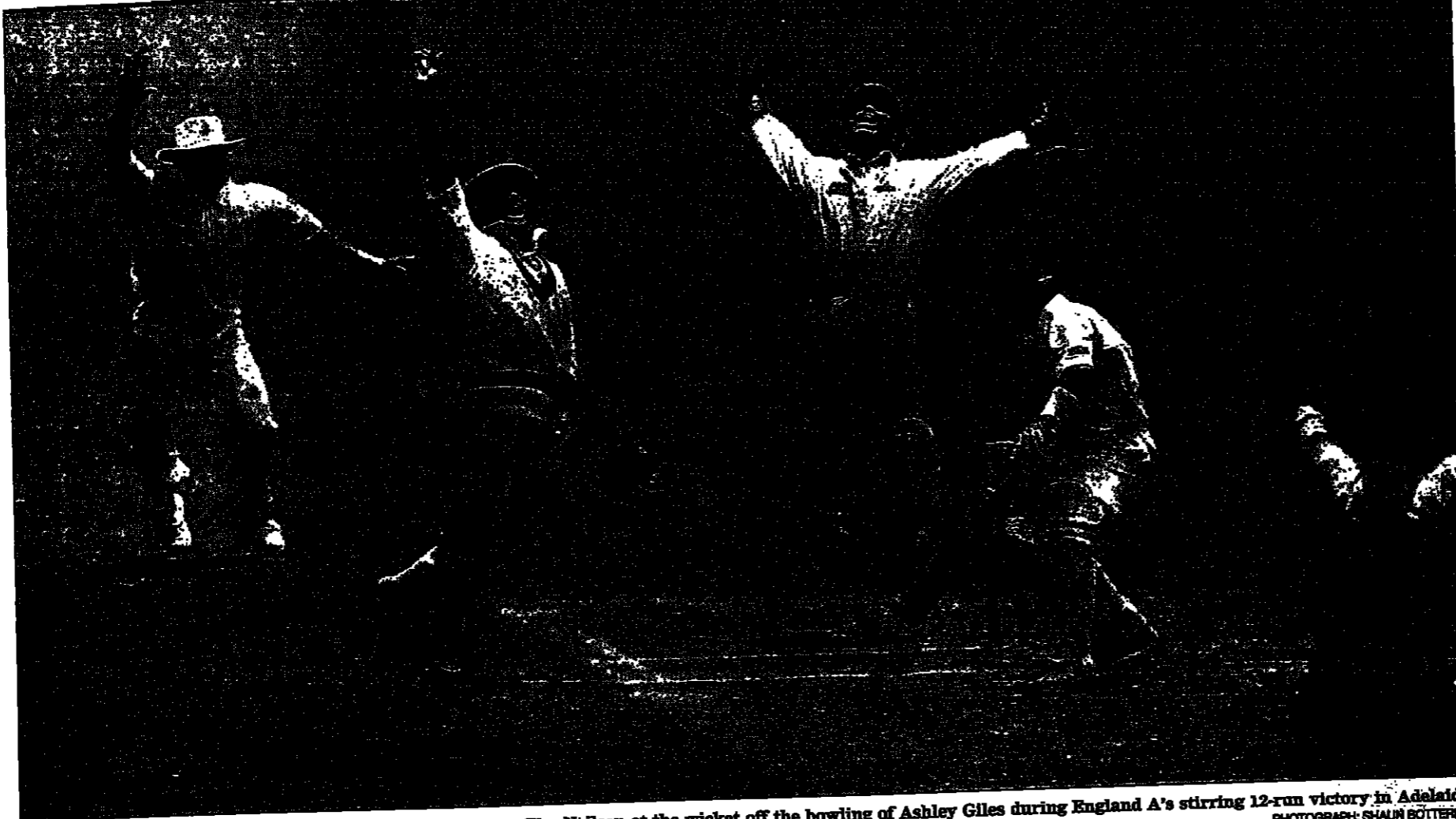
Morrison's final over forces tie

DANNY MORRISON bowled a spectacular over to help New Zealand tie their match against Sri Lanka in the Singer Champions Trophy tournament in Sharjah yesterday. It was the 46th, with Sri Lanka needing one run to win with two in hand. Morrison bowled Sa-

jeva de Silva with his third delivery and had Muttiah Muralitharan caught in the slips off his last ball. Sri Lanka had earlier survived a middle-order collapse to 88 for six in 29 overs. England's one-day match against Australia at the Oval on May 24 is a sell-out.

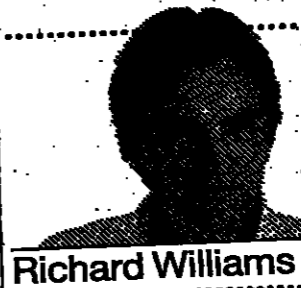


# SportsGuardian



Celebration time... Warren Hegg catches South Australia's Tim Neilsen at the wicket off the bowling of Ashley Giles during England A's stirring 12-run victory in Adelaide yesterday. Dean Headley took five wickets to help turn the game. Andy Wilson reports, page 15

## Where Tyson scored on a featherweight



Richard Williams

IT WAS a good weekend for boxing. Nobody died. Every where you looked there were winners. By the end of the longest Saturday night Las Vegas had witnessed an upset big enough to prove on its own that the whole business is not, after all, worked out in advance according to the sums scribbled on the back of an envelope in Don King's coat pocket. The fights are not fixed, in other words. Not, at least, once the guys are in the ring. How they get there is another matter. Perhaps the best thing about Evander Holyfield's astonishing win over Mike Tyson was the fact that it appeared to upset King's carefully laid plans. The worst thing was the sound of King reassuring reporters straight afterwards that, yes indeed, Holyfield's immediate future was in his hands. "It's the American way," King crowed into the nearest available microphone while simultaneously figuring out the value of a Holyfield-Tyson rematch.

There is nothing exclusive about finding that the combination of Hamed's inimitable self-aggrandizement and his calculated belittling of opponents tends to obliterate a proper admiration of his technique. When I heard him predict that he would stop Hamed after two minutes of his second round, I found myself which seemed inspiring, a brahmin when issued by Muhammad Ali should seem credible brattish when it comes from Hamed. Why could Ali want a beaten opponent without losing our affection, but not the "Nazi"?

## Tyson defeat 'finishes' King

Kevin Mitchell hears Lennox Lewis's negotiator map out the way forward

THE queue to Evander Holyfield's door is a predictably long and hungry one after the crazy scenes in Las Vegas on Saturday night but Famed Eliades, the financial negotiator of the Lennox Lewis camp, believes he is closer than Don King to the new champion's doorbell. Yesterday he challenged King's claim to have a promotional option on a rematch between Holyfield and Mike Tyson. "King has no hold over Holyfield whatsoever," Eliades said. "Evander is not a King fighter. He is connected to Main Events, as is Lennox. We are very confident that when Evander fights again — and he has gone away to take a break — that he will fight Lennox. "There is some doubt, also, about the legality of King's supposed option on a rematch. Normally options on title fights are illegal — although this is boxing we're talking about." King maintained yesterday: "I do have the promotional rights to Evander. It's the American way. We're going to see if we can put together the greatest rematch in the history of boxing." Funters would certainly pay more to see a vulnerable Tyson try to regain his World Boxing Association title from the similarly suspect Holyfield than they would for a fight between Holyfield and the occasional Londoner Lewis. Whatever his merits as a fighter, and they are many, Lewis does not have Tyson's box-office or pay-per-view clout in America.

King and Eliades will have a chance to exchange views on Thursday when the next episode is played out in a New Jersey court. King and Jose Sulaiman, the World Boxing Council president, have been subpoenaed to explain to the court why, having won the purse bidding for Lewis's next fight (a 12-rounder for the WBC's vacant championship against Oliver McCall, a King fighter) King failed to produce the bout within the mandated time. It is a familiar King tactic. Eliades is not having it. Although a virtual novice in the fight game, he has shown plenty of spirit in his confrontations with King. "I think King is finished," says Eliades. "He is being frozen out of the picture." But those who have written his obituary in the past have always had to do a rewrite and Eliades surely knows King is far from finished. For a start, he has two of the other so-called world champions: Michael Moore, who holds the International Boxing Federation version, and Henry Akinwande, the World Boxing Organisation titleholder. But Moore is unhappy at losing the \$10 million he would have been paid to fight Tyson in March. Akinwande could inadvertently freeze Tyson out of the picture as he is rated No. 8 by the WBC and mandatory challenger for the winner of the Lewis-McCall fight. It would take some shamed re-rating by the WBC to put Tyson ahead of McCall. The only people unhappier than King today are the Las Vegas bookmakers, who lost a small fortune on long-shot bets for Holyfield. Their overgenerous starting price of 25-1 on the underdog shrank to 5-1 after a late rush of tourist bets in the big hotels. "It was the worst loss on a fight we've ever had," said a spokesman for the Las Vegas Hilton. The Mirage paid out only more than \$1 million and Binlon's Horseshoe casino reported "an absolute disaster — all the money went on Holyfield". The MGM Grand, which staged the fight, did not fare so badly but it is unlikely that any underdog will attract such attractive odds again.

All invented sound-bite boasting, the belittling of opponents, the heightening of personal antagonism that now fuels practically all sport. But his identity was bound up in a wider destiny. In the Sixties he belonged to a generation, a prizefighter who was a symbol not of physical or financial conquest but, unbelievable as it may seem now, of raised consciousness. HAMED has no such excuse. He has no broader social purpose. He exists only to enrich himself. Don King and Rupert Murdoch. Where All stood for togetherness and tolerance, Hamed unwittingly embodies selfishness and arrogance, the qualities imbued by a lifetime's exposure to the toxins of Thatcherism. Which means that he probably speaks as directly to his generation as Ali did to mine. But that, I suppose, is beside the point. On Saturday night Hamed did what he promised he would do, to the very minute. And those of us who happen to dislike his manners are left, like Tyson and Molina, without a leg to stand on.

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**Guardian Crossword No 20,808**  
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**Across**

- 1 Flight from the Midwest to a Southern African province (6)
- 4 Cue found in gym after concert (6)
- 9 Celebrate twentieth pardon freely (5,3,4,3)
- 10 An American writer has to manage that over there (6)
- 11 Polar explorer is going round back of sledge dogs (8)
- 12 Sire with many a form in school for fathers? (8)
- 14 A sweet's round layers (6)
- 15 Charles the Heartless is abstaining from unlawful sex (6)
- 18 Hated action, engrossing trial (8)
- 21 American coins found in stations (8)
- 22 A meal for dad among others (6)

**Down**

- 24 Play the clarinet badly (six) (15)
- 25 Snare returning mate when docked (6)
- 26 A small pot for Mr and Mrs Gargery? (6)

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**Guardian Crossword No 20,808**  
Set by Orlando

**Across**

- 17 Tracile pie for Agnew's daughter (7)
- 18 He invested in a Norfolk town's crockery (8)
- 19 Fronts of trains entering really small stations? (7)
- 20 Poles in trouble with character from Greece (7)
- 23 Parking on line for a bit of fun (6)

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